

OSWESTRY & BORDER CHRONICLE



Thursday, March 28, 2013

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after heavy snowfall

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Six pages of the latest
homes on sale in the area

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Memory Lane

How the sports teams
of yesteryear looked

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Backing for continental market to be fixture

A CONTINENTAL food and craft market could become a regular fixture in Welshpool under plans by the town council.

The market – which could consist of up to 15 stalls and be located in either the street, the car park behind the town hall or the bottom market – was set to be given the go ahead at a meeting of the council yesterday (Wednesday).

It is hoped that the market could attract shoppers to the town from the surrounding area, boosting the local economy.

Robert Robinson, town clerk, said: "The Council Services and Property Committee considered the request for a food and craft market comprising 15 stalls at its latest meeting."

"This could be on the street, in the car park at the rear of the town hall or in the bottom market with spillage into the back areas of the hall."

"The recommendation from the committee is that the town clerk be given the authority to arrange for such markets to be held in the town."

In April 2011, the town council revived the old street market in the town and the stalls for this market are positioned along Broad Street every week on a Monday.

Post boxes protection

GREATER protection will be offered to people in rural communities against the removal of post boxes, the industry's regulator has announced.

Ofcom said it wanted to make sure arrangements for a post box within half a mile of at least 98 per cent of addresses were kept in place.

It comes after four post boxes were stolen in rural areas near Oswestry and Ellesmere last year.

Regulations covering the locations and density of post box coverage will be extended, Ofcom said.

NHS HOTLINE UNDER SPOTLIGHT IN TOWN

THE controversial new NHS 111 advice line is to come under the spotlight at a public meeting in Oswestry after a GP raised concerns that patients could slip through the net.

Bosses heading up the new service in the West Midlands, will speak at a meeting in Oswestry's Guildhall.

It was organised by Oswestry Town Council after town GP Paul Middleton flagged up worries that some patients may not get the urgent treatment they need.

This week doctors were forced to step in to bail out the newly launched advice line which is failing to cope with the volume of calls from patients in the county.

by Sue Austin

Festival team looking for rock bands

ORGANISERS of an annual youth music festival in Oswestry want to see rock bands taking part in next year's event.

Oswestry Youth Music Festival took place in the town from February 28 until March 3 with a final competition at Christchurch on 2pm.

This year there were 74 classes in the competition for youngsters aged nine and under up to 21 years old.

Classes in the event included a variety of genres from folk music to steel bands and was for beginners, soloists, duets, groups, ensembles, bands and orchestras.

Although this year's event has only just come to an end organisers are now already thinking about 2014's festival.

David Clough, from Oswestry Town Council, said: "Overall the feedback from the festival was very positive."

"Both contestants and spectators enjoyed it."

"The attendance figures were up by 10 per cent this year which is very good."

He said the organisers have now had fresh ideas on how to expand the festival even more next year.

"We are hoping to introduce new classes next year," he said. "I think we are going to have more groups and more rock bands involved."

Calls to the NHS 111 advice line are currently being diverted to the county's current out-of-hours service, Shropdoc, run by 300 GPs.

The public meeting at the Guildhall will be held on April 23 at 6.30pm.

Speaking at a town council meeting earlier this year Dr Middleton said the established Shropdoc out-of-hours service had been independently audited as one of the best in the UK.

"NHS Direct will run the service with non-clinical staff and in pilots this model increased ambulance calls from three per cent to 11 per cent and A&E attendances from 2.5 per cent to 5.6 per cent of calls."

"Our anxiety is that with these services literally stretched to almost breaking point now, this model of change is likely to increase risk to patients."

Concerned

"We are particularly concerned how this new system will cope with the large surges in demand over long Bank Holiday weekends and viral epidemics."

"We are heading for reduced services, higher demand and the potential people may slip through the net."

Wayne Bartlett, the NHS111 regional project director in the West Midlands, said more call handlers had been recruited to meet demand.

He said: "Our first priority is to ensure patient safety is not compromised and we have immediately acted and implemented measures. Additional call handlers are being brought in to underpin the service and we are monitoring call levels to ensure we have capacity to meet the demand."

Doctors in Shropshire are now answering 999 calls instead of ambulances, it was revealed this week. A total of 25 GPs from Shropdoc are giving support to West Midlands Ambulance Service Monday to Friday until July. GPs will assess patients who do not require a trip to A&E, in addition to helping with the volume of calls to the 111 NHS advice line.

Invasion at school



Lesley Smith as Boudicca visited Woodside School in Oswestry. With Lesley are Maisie Mwebe, Guy Welti and Thomas Hotchkiss. Picture: Peter Flemmich.

CELTS and Romans invaded a school in Oswestry when youngsters celebrated history with a special guest – Boudicca.

Pupils at Woodside Primary School, in Gittin Street, had a non uniform day when they dressed up as people from the past.

And Lesley Smith, curator of Tutbury Castle, visited dressed as Boudicca, the queen of the British Iceni tribe who led an uprising against the occupying forces of the Roman Empire.

She spent all day in character telling youngsters what it was like to live in the Roman times.

She brought along with her artefacts

including a Roman helmet and a Celtic horn and spoke to pupils in years three and four.

Charlotte Rowlands, a teacher at the school, said: "It was an unusual day at the school but they had a lovely time."

"Lesley was in character as Boudicca and spoke to them about her life as Boudicca, the items she was wearing and what her life would have been as a Celt. The pupils learnt a lot. It was a very interactive day."

She said the pupils had been studying the history this term and having the curator come into the school was a way of rounding it off. They will be doing some writing over the next couple of days.

Chance to have say on area's blueprint

TODAY is the last chance for people to have their say on the future development of Oswestry.

Consultation meetings for the Oswestry 2020 community plan were being held at the Guildhall in Oswestry yesterday (Wednesday) and again today from 10am to 6pm.

Volunteers involved in putting together a draft document say Oswestry 2020 is a 'blueprint' for the future of the town, and will guide decision-making and determine local priorities for new investment.

Oswestry mayor and chairman of the steering group, Councillor Martin Bennett, is urging people to call in at one of the sessions.

"To help us complete the 2020 Plan and to make sure we've got it right, we need feedback on the draft vision for the town and the actions being proposed."

"As one might expect, the emerging plan is focussing heavily on the state of the local economy and the 'health' of the town centre, and nearly half of the actions being proposed fall under these themes."

"Our aim is to make Oswestry a better place in which to live, work, invest and visit. We see the completion of the plan as just the start of a process. It will provide a framework for the development of projects."

Changes to management

COUNCIL house tenants in the Oswestry area will come under a new management company from Monday.

Shropshire Towns and Rural Housing will have responsibility for the housing, which will still be owned by Shropshire Council.

It will be run by a separate board, made up of councillors, independent community representatives, housing staff and tenants themselves.

The council says it will mean tenants will have a direct say into how their homes are managed.

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Dorothy's damson cheese recipe was fit for a king

by Sue Austin

WHEN the King of Nepal hosted a dinner part in Britain in, he remembered the roast lamb and damson cheese he had enjoyed so much as a university student in the country.

He sent out an plea for the recipe or for someone to make the 'cheese' or jelly and in stepped the Women's Institute which put out a nationwide alert back in the 1990s.

Organisers of Osfest reveal two new acts

ORGANISERS of an Oswestry music festival have announced two more acts for the event and are now looking for bands with an 80s feel.

Osfest will take place at Oswestry Showground in Park Hall on May 25 and 26.

It boasts a line-up of chart-toppers including boy-band JLS, X Factor's James Arthur and Lucy Spraggan and rapper Wiley.

Organisers have now announced two more acts - Charlie Brown and Titch.

Titch has already been on tour with Paolo Nutini, Pixie Lott and Justin Bieber. Charlie Brown is a south London star who has penned hit songs Jay Sean and The Script.

Event director Carly Jackson said: "We are looking into finding bands for the older generations. We are looking into 80s acts."

The festival will be supporting The Oswestry Bone Cancer Centre Appeal.

Osfest tickets cost £69.50 for an adult weekend ticket with camping or £59 for under-16s. For more details visit www.osfest.co.uk

WI member Dorothy Gray from Whittington, near Oswestry knew how to do it, so made a batch of the delicacy and sent it to the king.

Mrs Gray died in 2006, aged 89, but her baking remains legendary in the village. Now her family have compiled a selection of her favourite recipes in a book to raise funds for two charities.

Dorothy Gray's Favourite Recipes, is being sold in aid of the Hope House Children's Hospice and for the Macmillan Cancer charity.

There are recipes for casseroles, chutneys and cakes - including peppermint fingers, almond tarts and eccles cakes. And there is also the damson cheese, which is used like cranberry sauce to accompany meats.

Mrs Gray's son, David, said his mother was a farmer's daughter who grew up baking in the farmhouse kitchen. She carried on her love of cooking within the Women's Institute.

"Apparently the King of Nepal went to university in the UK and had a meal of roast lamb served with damson cheese. When he returned as king he hosted a dinner party and wanted to serve the dish himself."

"When Whittington WI heard about this my mother remembered making some. So she made six pounds of damson cheese which were sent to the King of Nepal."

The recipe book is available from the Oswestry Tourist Information Centre, priced £2.50.



The book is being sold at the Tourist Information Centre at Oswestry. From left, staff members Lynn Pitcher, Ann Tomley and Sue Williams. Picture: Peter Flemmich.

Helpers needed for meal service

MORE volunteers are needed to help deliver meals on wheels to elderly people in villages near Oswestry.

The service was launched by members of Selattyn and Gobowen Parish Council 18 months ago.

It has been run by dedicated volunteers driving to addresses within the parish to give people a hot meal.

But two of the volunteers have had to step down due to personal reasons.

Meals on wheels started as a pilot scheme and the present volunteers were praised this week after battling the snowy conditions.

Deliveries take place on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

People wanting to help out only need to volunteer a couple of hours twice a month and they do not need to be able to drive.

Penny O'Hagan, parish clerk, said: "We have had a couple who say they are not able to do it for us because of personal reason so we thought it was time to get more people signed up."

"If people don't sign up then some of the volunteers may have to start doing it more often."

If you would like to offer some help e-mail parishclerksg@gmail.com

Milner checks out town's nightlife

A TOWN councillor plans to go out with police to observe the night life in Oswestry.

Paul Milner is councillor for Castle Ward which covers the town centre. He has been invited to go out on the town, between 10.30pm and 4.30am, on Saturday with West Mercia Police.

Mr Milner, who would like to see taxi marshalls back in the town, will then report back to the council about the night time economy and what he experiences.

Owen's Travelmaster

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MAY

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24th - 27th BATTLEFIELDS OF THE WESTERN FRONT - Ambassador Hotel****, Menin 4 Days £310
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NEWS

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Runners help fund hospital's new unit

RUNNERS are playing a large part in fundraising for a new bone cancer centre in Oswestry.

More than 30 runners from the county and beyond will be tackling training runs of up to 20 miles this weekend in preparation for the Virgin London Marathon in April, all sponsored for the bone cancer centre appeal at the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, Oswestry.

Their funds will go to the £500,000 appeal towards the £2 million centre, and now a special text message donation scheme has been set up.

One woman has already run her race for the appeal.

Lisa Chew's niece, Kate Deboo, is recovering after her treatment at the unit and, to say thank you, Lisa ran the Liverpool Half Marathon and raised more than £1,500.

The new Oswestry Bone Cancer Centre will incorporate both clinic and inpatient facilities.

To donate, text 70070, then as the message put: OBCC78 and the amount you wish to give. Online donations can be made at: www.justgiving.com/Oswestry-bone-cancer-centre

Fundraisers will aid Poppy appeal

THERE will be two fundraising events held in Oswestry over the next fortnight to raise funds for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

A car boot sale will be held at the Pedigree in Shrewsbury Road on Saturday, from 10am until 2pm. Places cost £5.

Tickets are still available for a dance that will now be held at the Pedigree on April 6, after being postponed. Call (01691) 679260.

Driver's lucky escape as car slides into bridge parapet

by Sue Austin

A DRIVER had a lucky escape as their car slid off the road and was left hanging precariously over the parapet of a bridge above a river.

As motorists continued to struggle on ungritted side roads across Shropshire and Mid Wales earlier this week, the dangers of the ice and snow were captured by young photographer Liam Cassells of Penybontfawr.

Liam, 13, took the photograph of the vehicle abandoned on the bridge over the River Tanat near Llanrhaeadr, west of Oswestry, on Monday.

Liam and his mother Debbie, travelled from Liverpool to visit relatives in Penybontfawr and were left stranded in the Welsh village unable to get back home.

"We were in a relative's car on Monday and came across the vehicle. The driver had an incredibly lucky escape," said Liam.

With the forecast showing no let-up in the cold and ice and snow flurries many Easter events across Oswestry and Welshpool were being cancelled.

These ranged from the Macmillan Cancer charity spring fair to The Funtasia Circus.

Heavy snow also brought trees down across the area, blocking roads. The main road into the village of Weston Rhyn was blocked, with drivers having to make a detour through Chirk Bank, because of a fallen tree while a tree came down across the Llangollen canal near Chirk blocking the way for narrowboats.

In Whittington residents of Walsham Avenue turned out in force to clear their road, not on the council's gritting list.

Shovels

Pensioner Jan Drury said one by one neighbours started to appear with snow shovels.

"First were Sally and Gary Tomlinson and when others saw what they were doing, they joined them."

Circus Funtasia arrived at Oswestry Showground, in Park Hall, last week and was due to move its show to Shrewsbury this week.

But the weather meant they were snowed in so they decided to stay in the town for an extra week.

Tracy Jones is the ring mistress and originally comes from Oswestry.

She said they will be carrying out shows with magicians, illusionists, acrobats and clowns until Easter Monday.

Welshpool witnessed more than four inches of snow in the town centre and many more on high ground, causing pavements and roads to be covered and a number of school closures.

Powys County Council gritters were out and about through the weekend and the roads were completely clear by Monday morning despite blizzards throughout the weekend.



This sculpture was created in the grounds of Whittington Castle. From left are Jamie McGowan, Harry Davies, Dave Rees-Hughes, Matt Nichols, Graham Hinton and, back, Chris Hampson, Craig Williams and Chris Buckeridge. Catherine Longhurst Becky Adams also helped to build the sculpture.



David Morris and Rob Williams clearing snow in Oswestry.



Liam Cassells took this picture of a car stuck on a bridge near Llanrhaeadr.



A snowy scene at Whittington Castle.



Pentre Clawdd farm, Oswestry. Picture sent in by Michelle McLachlan.

NEWS in brief

Pupils present a show for others at primary school

YOUNGSTERS were given a taste of Nigerian culture when they welcomed guests from overseas.

Nigerian pupils from Adcote School, in Little Ness, visited Myddle Primary School.

The Adcote group performed a vibrant show, including traditional dances and a fable.

A spokesman for Adcote school said: "This is the third in a series of productions by our overseas students, who present examples of their culture in their own language to local primary schools."

"Previously a group of Chinese pupils performed a play about their new year and German pupils told the story of how they celebrate Christmas."

"Myddle Primary School told us their pupils are getting so much out of the experiences of live theatre – and in particular the idea of hearing new languages and seeing different costumes is inspiring lots of learning."

"They also complimented Adcote pupils for having such lovely manners. They said the pupils always presented themselves well."

Continental food for town market

A CONTINENTAL market featuring delicacies from across Europe will be held in Oswestry.

Traders will be bringing products to town on April 6 and 7. There will be more than 25 stalls selling items from France, Italy, Germany and Belgium.

Shoppers will get a chance to buy olives, tartiflette from the French Alps and Spanish paella. There will also be French crepes on offer and Dutch toffee waffles, Peruvian clothes as well as Parisian handbags and cheese.

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Yvonne 01948 710533

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NEWS

New book reveals father's time as a prisoner of war

FAMILY and friends have published a book about a Welshman who was captured as a prisoner of war in World War Two.

Oswestry piano teacher Haydn Jones has copies of the newly-released book about his dad, called John David Jones A biography, which has been written by friends and family.

It is a biography of John Jones who was born in the Tanat Valley in May 1923.

During World War Two he joined the RAF, in 1942, but on March 8 of that same year he became a prisoner of war held by the Japanese in the Far East. He was just 18 years old.

He was in barracks called 'bicycle camp' and was thought to be the youngest man there.

The book tells readers what it was like as a prisoner of war with information including what they were given to eat and some of the things they would have witnessed and experienced.

Missing

It also features excerpts of John Jones' diary in the book from 1942 when he was captured, a telegram which was sent to his parents informing them that it was believed he was missing and could be a prisoner of war and a letter he wrote from the camp to his family.

John Jones was released in the Autumn of 1945 at the end of the war. He returned home to his family where he became a bricklayer, painter and musician.

Those who knew him said he was 'renowned for his generous love of other people' and remember that he forgave the Japanese for capturing him.

Haydn said: "That part for me is the

by Chrissy Symmons

most moving part, where he travelled back across the world to come back home after four years in the camp."

John Jones passed away in 2006 and now two close friends, Hadyn and his two brothers have collaborated to write the book as a moving tribute.

Compelling

Haydn Jones said: "It has taken a few years for the book to be finished.

"I am really pleased with it and how it has come about.

"It is compelling reading because it is true."

Mr Jones said the information was collated from friends and family and his grandmother.

"I wrote the last part and my two brothers also wrote some of it," he said. "My father's best man also wrote some as well."

The book is priced at £6.99 and is being sold in Oswestry's Pickles, in Church Street, Siop Cwlwm in Powis Market Hall, the newsagents and post office in Llanrhaeadr and Siop Eirianfa in Penybontfawr.

People can also ring Haydn Jones on (01691) 658414.



Haydn Jones holding the book.



John David Jones.

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NEWS

01691 668094

Animal magic fun for town children

MORE than 100 children in north Shropshire have been treated to an evening of creepy crawlies and exotic animals thanks to an event arranged by a home care group.

Home Start North Shropshire and Oswestry hosted two sessions of 'the animal man' last month and the children, aged up to 14 years old, had the chance to hold snakes, spiders, chinchillas and hedgehogs.

Rachel Hill, play worker with Home Start, said: "We would like to thank those children and parents and carers that attended, and judging by the feedback it was a successful event."

Home Start is a charitable organisation which provides support and friendship to families with children under five years old.

The group provides holiday activities for local children and their families in conjunction with Whitechurch Town Council.

Anyone who would like to volunteer or find out more should visit Home Start North Shropshire and Oswestry, The Amica Centre, Church Street, Ighfield, Whitechurch, SY13 4NU, call (01948) 890458 or e-mail info@homestartnorthshropshire.org.uk

Romantic wall hanging created for castle walls

A SPECIALLY commissioned wall hanging depicting the iconic features of Whittington Castle is to take pride of place at the historic property.

The hanging features the castle's ivy clad ruined walls, its medieval moat complete with majestic swans and its twin towered gatehouse entrance.

by Iain St John

Bosses at the castle, which hosts civil weddings, say the romantic tone of the wall hanging will add something extra to its function room.

The hanging has been designed by Weston Rhyn artist Sarah Lacon who said she was delighted to carry out a piece of work which visitors of all ages as well as wedding couples could enjoy.

She said the work was inspired by the Gothic and bawdy humour of illuminated manuscripts.

Castle manager Sue Ellis added: "Since the restoration of the castle the Lady Eleanor Function Room, the romantic setting for the civil ceremonies at the castle, has been missing a key element - a wall hanging which depicts this romantic ruin and its myths and history."

"Legend tells us that the Holy Grail may once have been hidden at the castle and it has a fascinating history of the romance of the Fulk Fitzwarin once outlawed by King John - details of his exploits feature in an

epic poem. Whittington Castle Preservation Trust commissioned Sarah Lacon to produce a piece of work which would incorporate all these elements and Sarah has produced The Whittington Inamorata, a knight in shining armour declaring unconditional love for his lady, utilizing the castle's history as a backdrop."

Thrilled

Chairman of the castle trust Paul Jones added: "We are absolutely thrilled with the end result, it is vibrant and perfect for our Lady Eleanor Function Room."

"It will be housed in this room where weddings, meetings, birthday parties take place and will be seen by a great many people"

The Whittington Inamorata will be hung in the room shortly. Plans are also being put together for an art exhibition at the Castle by the Wrexham Art Group from April 4-14.



Artist Sarah Lacon from Weston Rhyn with the wall hanging.

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NEWS

01691 668094

Runners' efforts will help raise funds

RUNNERS are playing a large part in fundraising for a new bone cancer centre in Oswestry.

More than 30 runners from the county and beyond will be tackling their last, 20 plus training runs this weekend in preparation for the Virgin London Marathon in April, all sponsored for the bone cancer centre appeal at the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, Oswestry.

Their funds will go to the £500,000 Appeal to help fund a £2million centre and now a special text message donation scheme has been set up.

One woman has already run her race for the appeal. Lisa Chew's niece, Kate Deboo, is recovering after her treatment at the unit and, to say thank you, Lisa recently ran the Liverpool Half Marathon raising over £1,500.

She said: "In 2012, my 19 year old niece was diagnosed with a rare form of bone cancer. After treatment at Oswestry, Kate is now well on the road to recovery and she has become involved in the appeal to help raise funds towards a new bone cancer centre at Oswestry."

She can be sponsored via www.justgiving.com/LISA-CHEW. The hospital's appeal website is www.rjoh.nhs.uk/bonecancerappeal

Windfarm inquiry 'is key to power line decisions'

THE public inquiry which will be key to whether a power line is built through Shropshire and Mid Wales won't come to a conclusion until May next year, a planning inspector has revealed.

Although the inquiry into the proposed building of five windfarms in Mid Wales starts in Welshpool in June, closing sessions won't be held until 11 months later, a draft timetable lodged by inspector Andrew Poulter says.

Campaigners say the result of the windfarm inquiry will be key to whether a plan by National Grid to build a power line from Cefn Coch near Llanfair Caereinion to Lower Frankton near Oswestry goes ahead.

They warned those against the power plans to brace themselves for 'a long haul' as the inquiry process continues.

Mr Poulter released details of the draft timetable after holding pre-inquiry talks with windfarm companies, Powys County Council and campaigners.

He said the inquiry would start on June 4 at the Royal Oak in Welshpool but then the proceedings would be broken up into four specific sessions over the following 11 months.

The first session would run from September 3 and

October 18 and look at issues including landscape and cultural heritage.

The second session would run from November 5 to December 17 while a third session would run from January 21 to February 28.

A fourth session will run from March 18 to April 25 while a closing session will be held from May 20 to May 30.

Campaigners

Mr Poulter urged campaigners to work with officers from Powys County Council, which opposes the turbines, to save time during the months-long inquiry.

He said: "As repetitious evidence or questions will not be allowed, the applicants and the council and other objectors are strongly advised to cooperate in advance to avoid duplication and waste of effort."

A variety of campaign groups on both sides of the border have teamed up to fight the windfarm plans.

by Andrew Morris

Pupils become newshounds for the day



Oswestry's Carly Jackson being interviewed by Callum Williams and Connor Beardmore, both Year 9 students.

CURRENT affairs ranging from the horsemount scandal to Oswestry's Ofsted music festival were explored when students at the town's secondary school became journalists for the day.

About 100 Year 9 students at the Marches School perfected their interview and news reporting skills when they took part in the 2013 BBC School Report last Thursday.

Through the School Report Pro-

gramme, the BBC aims to help UK schools become news-makers in their communities and The Marches School in Oswestry has participated in the event for a number of years.

Among those interviewed for the project was Carly Jackson from Oswestry's Ofsted music festival, while other subjects discussed included six nations rugby and shark attacks.

Media studies teacher Kate

Reynolds said: "They have been so professional and hard-working and the newspaper articles, slideshows, radio reports and videos are all brilliant to read, listen to and watch."

Year 9 student Georgia Irvine said: "This has been a really fun, refreshing break from normal classroom activities and projects like this really allow you to put your own personality into the work you produce, which is great."

Life skills training handed funding

A CHARITY offering essential life skills to hundreds of primary school children each year has received a funding boost from a leading regional house builder.

Shrewsbury and Oswestry Crucial Crew successfully bid for the £250 community grant offered by Persimmon Homes North West. Youth clubs, sports teams and local organisations had been invited to apply for the cash giving details of how £250 would make a difference to them and their community efforts.

Shrewsbury and Oswestry Crucial Crew hosts a series of special training days over a two week period every June, attended by up to 1,500 children from around 60 different primary schools in the area. The children receive social awareness and safety training as a means of teaching them essential life skills.

The children learn of the dangers of drugs, internet abuse and cyber bullying, stranger danger, the effects of hoax calls etc.

The event, held at Nesccliffe Army Barracks, has been running for more than 18 years during which time more than 23,000 children have attended. The organisation was granted charity status in 2008.

David Hodgson, for Persimmon Homes North West, praised the initiative.

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NEWS

01691 668094

Children donate £400 to charity

YOUNGSTERS at a Ruyton X1 Towns school who heard first hand about how the Midlands Air Ambulance saved the life of a badly injured motorcyclist have handed over nearly £400.

The cash was handed over to representative of the emergency service by pupils at Packwood Haugh School. The money was handed over after a school assembly heard from Marcus Watkin who was injured in a motorbike crash 11 years ago.

School spokeswoman Catherine Hammond said: "Pupils and staff at Packwood Haugh School are proud to support many local, national and international charities through various fund-raising activities."

"Members of Packwood's nationally rated fencing club voted to raise money for the Midlands Air Ambulance at fencing tournaments which they have hosted this year."

"During an assembly representatives of the charity spoke to the children about the work of Midlands Air Ambulance."

"It was particularly moving to hear the story of Marcus Watkin, whose life was saved by the prompt attendance of the air ambulance accident 11 years ago."

A large proportion of the money was raised on at the school's fencing tournament, the Packwood Epee.

Pubs to help in crackdown on alcohol-fuelled crime

POLICE IN Oswestry are cracking down on late-night alcohol-fuelled crime and disorder after concerns that it is on the increase.

From April 1 officers will be working with the town's licensees to make sure late-night premises close their doors at 2.30am.

They also want to see only smaller measures of alcohol served from 3am, only one drink per person after 3.20am and no sales of alcohol after 3.30am.

Pubs and clubs already signed up to the scheme include the Kings Head, Gibsons, Ironworks, Boars Head, the Wilfred Owen and the Vaults. Police licensing officer Tony Mantle said late night trouble – often alcohol related – has been on the increase.

"We see this as an opportune moment to address the issues and I am glad to say five or six premises in the town centre have already come on board by entering into an agreement with the police," he said. "It's important to emphasise that every premises selling alcohol, including supermarkets and off-licences, have to take a share of responsibility."

Barred

"As a consequence, I have written to every licensee in the town asking them to consider their trading hours, their food and drink offer and to highlight the issues."

"I have also encouraged them to join and support the Pubwatch scheme under which anyone causing trouble is likely to end up being barred."

Carlton Leonard, who runs Gibsons nightclub, said: "We understand the police position and recognise we need to do our bit as responsible licensees. These half dozen premises cannot shoulder the burden alone. Other premises in the town must recognise they have a role to play."

Inspector Rik Klair, the town's police commander, said: "Not everyone goes out at the weekend intent on causing trouble. It's a small minority and it is those people we will target. Overall, Oswestry is a good place to socialise and the partnership aims to make it even better."

by Chrissy Symmons

Author to get park honour

A TRIBUTE to one of Oswestry's most famous daughters is to be installed at the town's main public park next week.

A dedication ceremony to author Barbara Pym will be held at Cae Glas Park on Wednesday.

During the ceremony a tree will be planted in the Booker Prize-nominated writer's memory. The tribute follows the unveiling of a plaque last year at her birthplace in Willow Street in Oswestry.

She wrote a series of novels such as *Some Tame Gazelle*, *Less Than Angels* and *A Glass of Blessings* during the 1950s and 1960s.

John Abram, High Sheriff of Shropshire will perform the ceremony and the Rev Simon Thorburn the dedication. The Mayor Councillor Martin Bennett and members of the town council will also be in attendance.

Councillor Bennett said: "It is important that we recognise Barbara Pym and her work in Oswestry."

Children in visit to fire station



Youngsters getting a taste of life with the North Wales Fire and Rescue Service at Chirk Fire Station.

YOUNGSTERS got a taste of the life of a firefighter when they took part in emergency drills at Chirk Fire Station as part of an innovative training course.

The Phoenix course is designed to encourage youngsters to get involved in productive activities in their free time.

Part of the course saw Chirk Fire Station invite a group of the youngsters on the course to its base and take part in drills and fire service training.

The Phoenix programme is run by North Wales Fire and Rescue Service.

Eryl Owen, Phoenix co-ordinator, said: "I am glad to say that this has been another great success for this exciting project."

"The aim of the course is to assist the youngsters in becoming more motivated and positive about themselves, which in turn has the effect of making them better citizens."

"We are hoping that these young people will feel that they have gained something positive and feel that it will be of benefit to them."

Approval for plans to switch off lights

THE lights will go out at night in Oswestry, town councillors have confirmed.

They have decided to follow Shropshire Council's lead, saving energy by putting out the lights for five-and-a-half hours from midnight.

However town council members have pledged lighting will remain throughout the night in car parks and parts of the town where CCTV cameras operate.

Although Shropshire Council is responsible for Oswestry's street lights, the town council is responsible for more than 400 foot and car park lights.

Bosses from both authorities have held talks about the town's lighting.

Part-night lighting uses photo-electric cells to switch off street lights at about midnight and then turn them back on at around 5.30am.

The system will come to Oswestry sometime in the next financial year.

Easter contest

FLETCHER Homes is having fun for Easter at their Wat's Meadow development at Gobowen by holding an Easter colouring competition for all children visiting with their families with a Cineworld gift voucher for a prize.

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FEATURE

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A classic? – The old car which is loved so much by its owner, Simon Bedford.



Nick Harrison and Simon Bedford wave farewell as they head off to Asia.

A few thousand miles to go for Simon's old Astra

by Andrew Morris

MOST 20-year-old cars with more than 250,000 miles on the clock would probably be scrapped by their owners – even if they were still working.

But a Montgomery man isn't scrapping his beloved but very old Vauxhall Astra – he has set off on a 5,000 mile road trip to Asia.

The 12-day intercontinental journey by Simon Bedford, who will be joined by friend Nick Harrison on the mammoth trip through 16 countries, is the third time he has taken his 1993 Astra on a marathon challenge.

Target

In 2010 having covered 199,000 miles in the Astra which he uses every day to get to work in Telford, Simon and his then co-driver Jim Wilkinson set off to John O'Groats with the intention of hitting the 200,000 miles before the MOT was due and destined to fail.

Having completed the trip and taken the Astra over the 200,000 mile target, a real desire to have another go enthused Simon into spending some time and money keeping the car, which he bought in 1998, on the road for another year.

A significant amount of welding and spanner work ensured the Astra passed the MOT ready for another adventure the following year – this time to the Arctic circle with co-driver Clive Jones.

Simon, a 49-year-old father of two, said: "This was a plan that we were sure would not be completed.

"We wanted to get to the north of Sweden and Norway and cross the Arctic circle, but given the age and condition of the car we were prepared to have to scrap her



Nick Harrison and Simon Bedford carry out last minute checks.



All ready to go – Simon Bedford and Nick Harrison, about to go on their adventure. Pictures: Peter Flemmich.

off on the way and fly home if major catastrophe occurred.

"We set off with a plan to be back home in 10 days and on day five we crossed the Arctic circle in Finland. It was a wonderful trip that I will never forget."

Simon and Clive made it back home to Montgomery having covered 4,500 miles, suffered break downs, bad weather and some terrible road conditions, but some wonderful sights and experiences.

Now over a year on since the Arctic circle, Simon and his Astra are off on another road trip.

He and Nick will be leaving on March 27 for Istanbul and on into Asia.

Simon, who works at TI Automotive in

Telford, said: "The trip that will take around 12 days is going to be a difficult one, for this very tired old car is expected to drive up to 600 miles per day, over Europe's biggest mountain range the Alps, at least 16 border crossings, and perhaps in hotter conditions than previous trips.

Journey

"The journey will be around 5,000 miles."

Some attractions along the way to break up the day include the Arnold Schwarzenegger museum in Austria, the birthplace of Mother Teresa in Albania, the castle where Chitty Chitty Bang Bang

was filmed, and a lap of the Nurburgring in Germany if the car is still going.

A small group of friends including Simon and Nick's wives will be waiting in Istanbul to welcome them at their halfway point.

Simon added: "I am constantly reminded of what a wreck of a car I drive.

"I can't deny it, but it does not depreciate, it will do over 55 miles per gallon, and if some one drives a trolley into it in the supermarket, it doesn't matter."

The trip will be in aid of Hope House Children's Hospice.

Sponsorship can be given by visiting www.justgiving.com/intercontinentalastra

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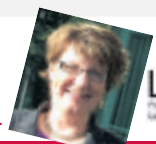
Q: I am struggling to reach an agreement with my ex-wife about seeing my son. I am in receipt of income support and wondered what my options would be?

A: You will need to consult a family law specialist to ascertain the correct way forward. Initially, they will write to your ex-wife to see if your contact with your son can be agreed via correspondence. If this is not possible your lawyer will refer your case for Mediation. With larger law firms like GHP Legal, there may be an in-house family mediator, otherwise your solicitor can refer you to one. The purpose of Mediation will be for you and your ex-wife to reach a mutual, acceptable, negotiated agreement with the help of the family mediator. As attending mediation is voluntary, if your ex-wife refuses to attend such an appointment, or mediation breaks down, the next step would be to apply to the Court for a Contact Order.

A Contact Order is an Order made by the Court, setting out the arrangements for when you and your son will see each other. Court proceedings are a lengthy process and are usually used as a last resort in cases involving children as it is preferable if parents can reach an agreement amicably.

Before instructing your lawyer to make an application to the Court you would need to secure a public funding certificate (more commonly known as legal aid) from the Legal Services Commission, or alternatively provide your lawyer with money on account of costs. From April 1st 2013 changes to the criteria for obtaining a public funding certificate will, however, leave many parents outside the scope of obtaining a public funding certificate unless certain, strict, conditions set down by the Legal Services Commission can be met. If you are experiencing problems seeing your son on a regular basis you should obtain advice from a specialist family lawyer as soon as possible.

Further information relating to this question is available from Caroline Gregg, a Trainee Legal Executive with GHP Legal. For information relating to any other legal matter please call GHP Legal on 01691 659194 or visit www.ghplegal.co.uk. For Personal Injury, Employment and Family matters we offer a FREE legal diagnostic clinic every Wednesday 12-3pm (no appointment necessary). GHP Legal holds the Law Society Lexcel Quality Mark Accreditation.



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LETTERS

Family's stay in town was not long

I WAS intrigued to read Toby Neal's piece entitled "Mystery disappearance of wartime friend is troubling" on page 48 of the *Oswestry Chronicle* on March 14.

I knew Paul Kassirer (correct spelling – not Kocira) very well as we were in the same form at Oswestry Boys High School in the first two years of my time there, 1944/45.

In fact Paul came to my 11th birthday party when our families lived in Ferrers Road.

To the best of my recollection, the Kassirer family, far from being German spies, came over from Belgium during the War to escape from the Nazis, as they were of Jewish extraction.

Paul spoke excellent English and I have an idea that his father was a member of the Belgian diplomatic corps.

It is true that they left Oswestry quite suddenly in about 1945. Some years ago another school friend of mine who was organising an Old Boys Reunion made enquiries of the Belgian Embassy in London about the family and was told that they probably went to Canada, as did a number of Belgian families just after the War.

Unfortunately the trail then went cold and enquiries of the Canadian Embassy proved fruitless.

My recent Google search turned up a Paul Kassirer who is a lawyer in New York, but the age difference proves him not to be my old school friend.

I hope that Mr John Powell, whom I also know quite well, will find the above to be of interest.

ALAN JOHNSON
Oswestry

Highlighting rare disease

I AM writing in the hope of raising awareness across the country of a very rare medical condition – Moyamoya disease.

My daughter was diagnosed with this aged one in 2009. Until then we had never heard of it. Moyamoya disease is where the walls of the carotid arteries thicken and narrow, restricting the blood flow to the brain.

World Moyamoya Day is on May 6, an ideal time to try to raise awareness.

DAWN MORGAN
Powys

Exemplary treatment

IN view of all the adverse publicity concerning the NHS, I feel I have to respond.

On February 12, I was admitted as an emergency patient to The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, Oswestry.

I was placed in the care of a consultant spinal surgeon and his team. I was an in-patient on Clwyd ward.

The ward caters for 26 patients with hip/knee replacement procedures carried out daily.

On February 20, after an MRI scan, I received major spinal surgery conducted by my consultant spinal surgeon.

I arrived at the theatre block unit at 3.30pm. I was procedure number 42 for that date. This gives an indication how many surgical procedures are conducted in the seven theatres.

I was discharged from the hospital

on February 23. During my stay I observed and noted the following:

1. Patients on Clwyd ward came from various locations in England and Wales. In response to my question why travel to Oswestry for surgery? Their responses were all very similar, "I researched my procedure on the internet and RJAHS was described as a centre of excellence for my operation, so I chose Oswestry."

2. The wards received a very thorough daily cleanse by cleaners employed by the hospital, not contract cleaners, who took personal pride in the appearance of 'their' hospital.

3. The food was nutritional and varied, the hospital catered for all tastes. I would compare the food served up to me as compatible with food I have eaten in four-star hotels.

4. Finally, and most importantly, the nursing staff were second to none, they

were professional and showed compassion at all times.

They were continually kept busy with patients returning from the theatres. I noted that the nursing staff were also drawn from the local community. Their commitment to the profession they serve is beyond reproach, and can only be described as excellent.

Shropshire has three main hospitals; The Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, The Princess Royal Hospital, Telford and The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, Oswestry.

The local media regularly gives updates on the performances of The Royal Shrewsbury and The Princess Royal, we rarely hear of the RJAHS Orthopaedic Hospital.

I hope that this letter will help to redress the issue.

JOHN INGHAM
Shrewsbury



THIS postcard showing the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Hospital was sent by a bored patient named Joyce in July 1963 to Mrs A Smith, of 4 Turrell Avenue, Donnington. Her message read in part: "Thanks so very much for your very nice letter. So pleased you have had a really wonderful holiday. Well, I am getting fed up here. I have been here three weeks last Wed. I have got to rest and see another doctor next week. Come and see me as soon as you can"

Mystery of moles

THE moles are making molehills everywhere this spring-time.

Can anyone tell me, as it's the male looking for a mate, is he emerging or going down to leave his large heap of soil? Is it a ritual – catch me if you can – as it's underground and dark?

Does he need a lookout turret?
JOHN BUTLER
Oswestry

Store's workers are helping raise funds

I AM writing to inform your readers of a nationwide fundraising initiative taking place across all Superdrug stores. Stores are raising money to help fund Marie Curie Nurses who provide free care to terminally ill patients in their own homes.

During our Great Daffodil Appeal, Superdrug colleagues will be participating in yellow-themed fundraising activities and asking people to donate and wear a daffodil pin in support of the charity. We are grateful to Superdrug who have signed up to partner with us for a two year campaign, and would appreciate all your readers supporting their local store.

DR JANE COLLINS
Chief Executive, Marie Curie Cancer Care

LETTERS to the Editor

POST	FAX	E-MAIL
Readers' Letters, Oswestry Chronicle, Kelley, Telford TF1 5HU	01952 254605	letters@oswestry chronicle.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters

Go veggie and save an awful lot of cash

IN these tough financial times many of us are looking for ways to tighten our belts and cut our regular outgoings.

One way to reduce the weekly grocery bill is to go veggie, as meat makes up the single biggest food cost for most British households. That's why throughout National Veggie Month this March, Animal Aid is giving away free copies of its booklet 'Meat Free: Feed four for under a fiver'.

Full of cost-cutting advice and veggie recipes for those on a budget, it can help you to save money as well as save the lives of farmed animals. You can request your free copy by e-mailing info@animalaid.org.uk or calling (01732) 364546.

BEN MARTIN
Animal Aid

This view will break up rural villages

WHILE no one would wish to see the wholesale development of the countryside, Sir Simon Jenkins' comment to the Home Builders Federation, that young families have no right to a home in the village where they were born is a view that could hasten the end of many rural communities.

A lack of affordable homes creates a vicious cycle which if not broken leads to the break-up of communities, a loss of services and results in villages that have no long term future.

The rural population has grown by 800,000 people in the last decade, twice the rate of urban areas, driving up house prices and pricing young families out of the communities in which they work and in which they have often been brought up.

This problem is one of particular concern in the agricultural sector and among key workers.

Rural housing prices are on average 5.4 times the annual wage in the countryside. Those young people unable to find homes often move to urban areas, placing a further strain on affordable housing in these areas.

This can also increase the distance people travel to work with negative environmental consequences.

Homes and jobs need to go together. Without homes and jobs there is no community to support local shops, schools and services.

BARNEY WHITE-SPUNNER
Executive Chairman
Countryside Alliance

Extra help to churches

I RECENTLY attended a morning funeral at a small rural church near Oswestry.

It was a bitterly cold day and there was no heating. I saw that the vicar, who was not very old, looked pale, cold and careworn, but in his thoughtful sermon and kindness he gave help and comfort to a family in difficult circumstances, and it crossed my mind that the Government often do not appreciate or give recognition to the help and support vicars and priests give.

I think the Government should require energy companies to give subsidies, out of their very substantial profits, to church heating.

J MCCARTHY
Oswestry

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OSWESTRY CONTINENTAL MARKET

OSWESTRY WILL BE HOSTING ITS FIRST EVER WEEKEND-LONG CONTINENTAL MARKET THIS SPRING.

Stall holders from across Europe will be bringing their products to the Shropshire market town on April 6th and 7th from 9am until 5pm.

There will be more than 25 stalls selling a number of fresh items from their home countries including France, Italy, Germany and Belgium.

Stalls will be set up along Bailey Head, Bailey Street and Cross Street selling items such as olives, tartiflette from the French Alps and Spanish Paella and Chorizo.

There will also be French crepes on offer as well as Dutch toffee waffles, Peruvian clothes, Paris hand bags and cheese.

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Tour will not make town trip

THE Tour of Britain cycle race will not visit Welshpool this year, officials confirmed.

The race, which brought a huge boost to the town for the past two years, will instead have a stage from Machynlleth, through Llanidloes and down to Rhayader and Builth Wells.

Organisers said the tour regularly changes its route and it was not a question of the town being snubbed.

Robert Robinson, Welshpool Town clerk, said the town had been lucky to have the tour twice.

"We are happy that it has gone to Machynlleth. We would like to have it here but good luck to them."

Powys County Council said it was delighted that the tour will still be coming through the county.

Councillor Graham Brown, cabinet member for regeneration at Powys County Council, said: "We are delighted that the country's best known and most viewed cycling event is returning to Powys for a fourth time."

For details of the route visit www.thetour.co.uk

U3A meeting

THE next meeting of the Welshpool and District University of the Third Age (U3A) will be held on April 2 at Church House in Church Street. Doors will open at 9.45pm for a 10.30am start. Visit www.welshpoolanddistrictu3a.org.uk

Seized counterfeit goods handed over to aid charity

by Andrew Morris

COUNTERFEIT goods which were seized by Trading Standards bosses in Mid Wales have been donated to local charities to raise funds.

Powys County Council said it gave more than 5,000 items including clothes, CDs, DVDs and other items, to the His Church national charity, based in Bedfordshire, which takes the fake brand logos off items before handing them back to good causes in Powys.

The charity handed over the goods, re-branded with His Church logos, to Kaleidoscope, a drug and alcohol support group which helps people in the county.

Councillor Sue McNicholas, council chairman, said: "Trading Standards Officers often seize large quantities of fake goods at retail premises, markets, car boots and even households and when defendants are successfully prosecuted, the goods must be disposed of securely."

"On the day, the service handed over some 5,000 counterfeit items to the charity including CDs, clothing, boots, and other goods, which would command a retail value of over £100,000 if sold and genuine."

Councillor Barry Thomas, cabinet member for Trading Standards, added: "Traders of fake merchandise make money out of someone else's work and getting these goods off the streets of Powys is an important role of our Trading Standards Service."

"By teaming up with His Church, not only are we protecting consumers, but we are also helping others make use of the items seized."

Richard Humphrey from His Church said: "We are delighted to act in partnership with the council's Trading Standards Service in turning counterfeit products into real aid for those who need it most."

Richard Jones from Kaleidoscope added: "We would like to thank His Church for this donation."

Town party night



A 60's and 70's party night is being held at Welshpool Town Hall on April 6, from 8pm. Tickets are £10. Market stallholder Sue Averis gets in to the spirit.

Open day at drop-in centre



THE Ponthafren Association's drop in centre on Broad Street in Welshpool for people with mental health issues held an open day to raise awareness of their services which include art and craft classes, support services and days out and trips. For more information of the centre's services call (01938) 552 770. Carrie Ellis from the centre, left, with two centre users Mikey Cairns, centre, and Adam Payne, both from Welshpool.

NEWS
in brief

Yasmin's concert ends club season

WELSHPOOL Music Club brought the curtain down on its 70th season by welcoming renowned pianist Yasmin Rowe to the town last Thursday.

Yasmin performed Scarlatti, Beethoven, Chopin, Janacek, Ravel and Stevenson for the final concert of the year at the Methodist Church.

She regularly performs around the UK in world-class venues such as the Wigmore Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room, Steinway Hall, St Martin-in-the-Fields and St James Piccadilly, both as a soloist and with cellist duo partner, Yelien He.

Council's appeal to youngsters

WELSHPOOL Town Council has put out an appeal for youngsters to get involved in local politics by opening a seat for a 15 to 24 year old on the full council.

The 'youth' candidate must live in Welshpool and give two Wednesday evenings a month for official duties.

If you think you can make a difference in the town, e-mail the Town Clerk's office at wtocouncil@btinternet.com

Hunt on for eggs

WELSHPOOL Town Council is hosting a free egg hunt on Easter Monday. A card can be collected from the Tourist Information Centre from 10am to 2pm.

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WELSHPOOL

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Taxi boss warning over town's one-way system

Watercolours on show



THE library in Welshpool is currently displaying a selection of watercolours from artist Roger Callow, from Llanfair Caereinion, depicting castles, houses and landscapes. Saffron Price, branch librarian, with some of the art. Picture: Ian Sheppard.

by Graham Breeze

AS WELSHPOOL braces itself for next week's Easter traffic rush, the town's under-fire one-way system has been delivered its most damning criticism yet.

A raft of changes to the controversial system have been proposed, but as yet none have been implemented and Steve Wright, who owns Wright's Taxis and can spend up to 16 hours a day navigating the system, said it is still not working.

And the man who uses the streets of Welshpool more than anyone else has delivered a damning verdict on the system.

Mr Wright said that not a day or night goes by when he does not see someone going the wrong way, and he fears that it may only be a serious incident before something drastic is done.

"At the moment there have only been near-misses and minor prangs but I am concerned that something serious could happen," he said.

"If there is not a bad crash at the bottom of Sainsbury's during the summer, I will be very surprised."

Mr Wright delivers a daily roads briefing when he clocks off from work in the early hours which benefits the hundreds of people that follow him on Facebook. But lately the one-way incidents have been highlighted more often than the recent bad weather.

He said that a number of changes could be made to make the system safer but, surprisingly, he has never been consulted by anyone, including the Powys County Council panel that was appointed to trouble shoot the system.

Welshpool can expect heavy traffic next week as tourists begin their annual pilgrimage to the Welsh coast.

The Scrutiny Review was led by Cllr Kelvin Curry and identified a number of trouble spots that require fine tuning.

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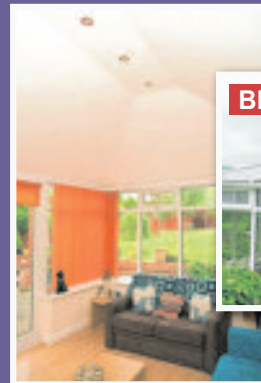
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My hero son is always with me



Chris Dunsmore died in a mortar attack.

by Andrew Morris

A CRUMBLING wall is all that is left at the spot where Senior Aircraftsman Chris Dunsmore was killed in action while serving in Basra.

He died in a mortar attack on July 19, 2007 – the day he was due to fly home to visit his father.

Now his father Geoff has been to the spot where 29-year-old Chris died – and placed a small cross bearing a poppy in his memory.

"Visiting the area where Chris died was poignant but also quite strange," said Mr Dunsmore, who lives in Churchstoke on the Shropshire/Mid Wales border. "The portable buildings that Chris was sheltering in have been removed, but we were able to locate the spot."

"Since the time he died it became a dumping ground so it was hard to navigate, hot, dusty and messy. I took with me a cross with a poppy on to lay in the spot where he was killed and there was not much to leave the cross on, so I had to place it on a bomb blast wall which was, in itself, quite significant."

"I had always wanted to go and visit the spot and it felt like Chris was with me while I was there helping me through it."



Geoff Dunsmore looks around the scene near to where his son Chris was killed in Basra in 2007.

"Chris used to say I was his inspiration but in the years since we lost him I have found that it has been the other way round – he has inspired me."

Senior Aircraftsman Dunsmore was a member of 504 Squadron Royal Auxiliary Air Force Regiment based at RAF Cottesmore in Leicestershire. He became the first RAF auxiliary to lose his life in action since the Second World War.

Mr Dunsmore, a retired headteacher from Devon who moved to Mid Wales for a fresh start last year, says he met people he now considers as lifelong friends on the trip.

They include Mazin Altayar, from Basra, who not only showed Geoff around but also named his son Chris in memory of the airman.

Mr Dunsmore said he did not feel nervous visiting the country despite the emotional ties

and said it was through speaking to Iraqi locals that he learned of their thanks for the efforts of British forces in the country.

He said: "I found the Iraqi people absolutely incredible and I have made some friends for life over there. I met so many people who are grateful for what Chris was doing and they were all sympathetic and grateful that Chris sacrificed himself in a bid to get Saddam Hussein to go."

Welcoming

"When I first got to Iraq people were staring at me and looking and wondering who I was, but when they found out I wasn't a politician they were very welcoming."

The BBC invited Mr Dunsmore to make a documentary about his visit, which was shown on BBC2 in the week of the 10th anniversary of the start of the Iraq war.

Mr Dunsmore said: "It was called 'Iraq: Did My Son Die in Vain?' and I have never, for one minute, thought Chris died."

"Being out there and talking to Iraqis, I found it is the invasion itself for which there is bad feeling about, they are very positive about many other things."

"I carried out an emotional interview at the start of my fortnight in Iraq, between myself and a Iraqi family but at the end they invited me to stay for something to eat."

Mr Dunsmore said he now feels like more should have been done by our troops to help the country in the long run.

"There is amazing positivity out there but I think our forces should have stayed out there longer to get up the infrastructure," he said.

Since his son's death, Mr Dunsmore said he feels Chris has been with him since the

moment he was told he had died.

"When the captain came and told me about Chris dying, a large frame came off the wall and landed upright on the floor balancing. Then some bowls fell to the floor but didn't smash and I thought 'Chris is home' and the captain gave me such a wide-eyed look," he said.

But perhaps the most special coincidence was the appearance of two poppies in his garden the year after Chris died.

"I had never before had any poppies in my garden, then the year after he died one appeared with two flowering buds. The one opened on the anniversary of his death, the other opened 10 days later on what would have been his birthday," he added.

"I feel he is always with me, guiding me and I am a proud father."



Geoff Dunsmore with Iraqi citizen Mazin Altayar, who named his son Chris in honour of Mr Dunsmore's son.

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Couple's collection turns heads

by Iain St John

A LOVE affair with an iconic French-made van has led to a couple from the Shropshire/Welsh border starting an unusual vehicle rental business.

Andrew and Anne Bennett fell in love with Citroen HY vans when they lived in France for six months.

The couple from Llansilin near Oswestry bought their first one to use as a campervan and have not stopped since – now proudly owning 25 of the distinctively shaped vehicles.

They are now working on a plan to restore all the vans, which they store in large premises near Oswestry, and rent them out either as working vehicles or static vans.

The couple say the vans' shape and high headroom, which allows people to fully stand up in the vehicles, opens up limitless business opportunities.

Mr Bennett, a 46-year-old lorry driver, said: "We already have one rented out to Harvey Nichols in Manchester. They take it to shows to promote their food and business."

"I think the vans are an ideal way to promote your business or to use as a static base for your business."

"I think they would be ideal for florists or would make a great stall at farmers markets or as a bottle bar in a pub beer garden."

"They would even be an attraction in themselves at local shows."

"We have been building up our collection over five years after falling in love with the vehicle when we lived in France."

"It started as a hobby but over the years we are treating it as more of a business."

"We have a contact over in France who can supply us with them."

"We enjoy restoring them and bringing them back into life. We just really like them."

"We just think they are really special. The design allows people to stand up in them so they are ideal for cooking in or working from."

"We decided to go down the rental route to help us meet the cost of restoring the vehicles in our fleet."

Mr Bennett said he hoped the appearance of two of the couple's vans on a hit BBC TV show would raise the profile of the vehicles and allow them to grow their business and rent out some of them to local firms.

The couple supplied the vans to the producers of BBC2's Country Show Cook Off which sees celebrity chefs compete to win cookery prizes at rural shows up and down the country.

The pair were approached by the programme makers after producers heard they had built up a fleet of the French vans. Mr Bennett said: "We rented out a blue van and a red van to STV who made the programme."

"They had them for two months last year as they filmed the series."

"It was great to know that we had all these celebrity chefs using our vans."

Mrs Bennett, a 45-year-old midwife, said she was delighted the couple's

beloved van collection had opened up a new business for them.

She said: "Our first one was a camper van and we have just built it up from there. Hopefully people who have seen Country Show Cook Off will be interested in these iconic French vehicles."

"The show is running on BBC2 every evening for a month so it is great to see our vans on national television."

"One business idea we are working on is to use one as an oyster bar at weddings. Another idea is to take one to food festivals."

For more information, e-mail clas.sicfrenchvans@gmail.com

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"One business idea we are working on is to use one as an oyster bar at weddings. Another idea is to take one to food festivals."

For more information, e-mail clas.sicfrenchvans@gmail.com



Anne and Andrew Bennett – who live near Llansilin – with their classic Citroen Vans. Pictures: Ian Sheppard.



Left: The couple inside one of the stylish vehicles. Right: The distinctive front of another of their classic Citroen Vans from the 1950s.



Anne and Andrew show off another of their quirky, head-turning vehicles. They now own 25 of them.

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NEWS

01691 668094

Guitarist playing concert at school

ONE OF the leading acoustic guitar players in the country will give a concert in Oswestry next month.

Clive Carroll will play medieval lute music, Spanish guitar classics and Blues to the Beatles at the concert at the Peter Humphreys Centre, Oswestry School, on April 27, which starts at 8pm.

Having started playing guitar at the age of nine, Mr Carroll graduated from Trinity College, London, with a first-class degree in composition and guitar.

Since then he has established himself as one of the leading acoustic guitar players in the world, along with such legends as John Renbourn and Tommy Emmanuel with whom he has toured.

He has produced three albums to date with musical influences ranging from early classical to contemporary jazz.

In between a busy schedule of tours, workshops and tutoring he is currently working on his fourth album.

Tickets for the concert in Oswestry are £10.

They are available from The Gates, Church Street, Oswestry, or email keith.offord@virgin.net or telephone 01691 791403 for more details.

Couple buck closure trend and open four businesses

by Iain St John

THE worrying trend of business closures has well and truly been bucked by an Oswestry couple – who have opened up four businesses in just one town centre building.

Rachel and John Pittaway's unusual new premises in Arthur Street, which include an accountancy firm, a complementary therapy service, a training company and a home survey business, has been opened by Oswestry's town mayor Martin Bennett.

The enterprising couple run all four businesses with Mrs Pittaway, a 48-year-old accountant also trained in reflexology, and Mr Pittaway, a 49-year-old home survey specialist also trained to give Indian head massages and reiki treatments.

Mrs Pittaway said: "It is a very unusual mix of businesses but while many businesses in Oswestry are closing, it does bring new life to a building which was closed for some time.

"I had been an accountant for several years but one day I decided I really wanted to train as a reflexologist too.

"I later got John, who does home survey work and is a Green Deal advisor, into complementary therapy as well.

"One of the rooms in the new premises is a base for Cambrian Business Training and so we are offering four separate businesses from just one premises, hopefully bringing a real boost to Oswestry in these difficult times.

"I suppose being an accountant and being a reflexologist is unusual, they are not at all related, but I do say that as an accountant I am taking away some of the stress of run-



The official opening by the Mayor of Oswestry Councillor Martin Bennett, front centre, at RW Accounts LTD.

ning a business from them and by giving a massage I am taking away their physical stress. The accountancy business is the principal business at the premises.

Consultation

"We focus on helping small and micro businesses and try to help them set up.

"We focus on the one-man bands and the smaller enterprises, giving them advice and making accountancy more accessible to them. The first hour of the first consultation

is free because we are trying to keep down the costs for the smaller business people.

"With so many businesses closing in Oswestry, a lot of people are looking at going out and setting up on their own, and we can help them do that."

The couple got the keys to the Arthur Street premises, the former Lloyds Travel Agents offices, in October and opened in November. Mrs Pittaway said: "Accountants are very busy at the end of the year so we didn't have time to have a formal opening

until now. People who have come along are very impressed by how we have changed the premises to offer four different businesses."

Mrs Pittaway is helped to run her accountancy firm, called RW Accounts Ltd, by Theresa Hughes, who has been with the firm since joining as a trainee in June.

Mr Pittaway's home survey service is called The Homebuyers Friend Ltd and as a Green Deal advisor he can also help people have their homes upgraded for heating and insulation.

New style of hockey is shown to pupils

MORE than 600 young people from across Powys have embarked on an innovative approach to hockey.

Pupils from schools across the county including Welshpool took part in a series of hockey parties organised by the Sports Development Team.

The format of the new style '4689' is based not on age but ability, with the size of the playing area and team numbers gradually increasing as the children's talents improve.

At first there are four players on each side progressing up to nine-a-side.

Katie Hamer from Powys Hockey Agency said: "Not only does the size of the playing area and number in a team gradually increase as the children's ability improves, but it's also a flexible and accessible format with no need for special equipment or play areas."

Those who took part in the Hockey 4689 final included teams from Llanidloes Primary School, Butington/Trewern Primary School, Banw Primary School, Llanfair Caereinion Primary School and Guilsfield Primary School.

Llanfair Caereinion and Guilsfield progressed to the Welsh finals.

Katie said: "The format allows children to play at their own level, at their own pace."

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NEWS

01691 668094

Business start-up club is a success

MORE than 30 people have attended a new business start-up club for budding young entrepreneurs in Oswestry.

Club clinics are being held in The Guildhall, in Bailey Head, every second Tuesday of the month until September for people aged between 18 and 30.

The club is run by Shropshire Council, Oswestry Town Council and Shropshire Enterprise Partnership to offer young businesspeople free information, support and access to finance.

The first six sessions have been attended by 31 budding businessmen and women.

Mark Pembleton, Shropshire Council's service manager for business and enterprise, said: "These clinics provide a great opportunity for Oswestry's budding young entrepreneurs to gain valuable advice about setting up their own business."

"I encourage anyone aged 30 and under with a great business idea to come along, to find out how to turn that idea into a money-making business."

The next meeting of the club is due to be held on April 9 from 5.30pm until 7pm. Tickets are free but online registration is essential.

For more information, see <http://startupclubswestry.eventbrite.com/>

Jobless Paul's anger after he can't apply for job at store

AN unemployed man has spoken out about his disappointment at not being able to apply for a job in a new store coming to Oswestry.

When Paul Roberts found out that Poundland was recruiting for staff for a shop in the town he went to his local Job Centre Plus to see if he could have an application form.

But he was told that vacancies were not being filled by the job centre. Mr Roberts, 44, said: "I was told that the jobs were being advertised through Country Training and the Shaw Trust and that I had to be registered with one or the other."

"I am not eligible for either and so that bars me from applying for a job. I am all for equality but this is not equality. Jobs are hard to come by and when it is not a level playing field it is very unfair."

Mr Roberts, from Chirk Bank near Oswestry, retrained last year and has been looking for employment in countryside management.

But, having applied for almost 50 jobs since June, he says he will now take any employment while he continues to look for what he really wants to do.

Advertising

"I have applied for jobs up and down the country and it is soul destroying not to get offers. I am doing a lot of voluntary work in the meantime but I am really keen to get paid work. I had hoped that the opening of a new Poundland in Oswestry would mean lots of jobs for people like myself."

A spokesman for Job Centre Plus said: "It is up to individual companies where they choose to advertise."

Mark Brooks for the Shaw Trust charity said: "I can confirm that Poundland approached Shaw Trust last week for help in recruiting people. We, alongside our partners County Training, have through the employment programmes we run supplied excellent people who are looking forward to working for the retailer."

Poundland has not yet confirmed it is opening a store in Oswestry, despite advertising for a manager for a store in the town on its website.

See <http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/healthsocialcare/voice/?status=open&lang=en> for more information.

by Sue Austin

Health review result revealed

BODIES representing patients across Wales will be strengthened following a review of the role of Community Health Councils.

The review of the functions and role of Community Health Councils (CHCs) suggested more can be done to ensure they operate effectively and efficiently to make the best use of the talents and resources available.

Health Minister Mark Drakeford said: "One of the underlying themes emerging from the Francis Inquiry is making the voice of the patient heard in our health services."

"A major advantage we have in Wales is we still have Community Health Councils. My focus now is to make sure CHCs are working in a way which is sustainable and serves the people of Wales as well as possible."

See <http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/healthsocialcare/voice/?status=open&lang=en> for more information.

Hear all about it at library



Staff at Gobowen Library invited people to sit back and listen to a good story on Tuesday. Assistant librarian Pat Bullock is pictured getting set for the event.

Wi-fi on offer for customers at market

CUSTOMERS visiting the cafes at Oswestry's award-winning market can now enjoy wi-fi internet with their tea.

Powis Hall, on Bailey Head, has been given a revamp and now offers the free service to attract more visitors.

Powis Hall has a cafe upstairs and downstairs which will be offering the internet service.

David Clough, retail markets and events manager for Oswestry Town Council, said: "When customers buy a coffee they will be given a password for the wi-fi."

"We have been working for a long time to get it into the market. It has been there for the traders but now we are rolling it out to the customers."

"It is a good idea."

"It will be useful in the summer as well as people can sit outside and use both the cafes upstairs and down stairs."

The market hall recently won an award for the Best Small Council Run Market and has attracted the attention of television company S4C.

A film crew visited the town yesterday (Wednesday) to make a show about it.

A couple of years ago the market hall won an online competition in The Times newspaper to help with face-lift plans.

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NEWS

email: news@oswestrychronicle.co.uk Tel: 01691 668094



American author Maggie Stiefvater, centre, at Adcote School with Evie Ford, deputy head girl, left, and Valeriya Tsekhanska, head girl.

Author in visit to school

A BEST-selling American author has visited schools in the Oswestry area to meet youngsters and sign books.

Maggie Stiefvater arrived at Adcote School for Girls at Little Ness, spoke to the pupils and signed their books for them.

She is an author of young-adult/urban fantasy novels and is the New York Times best-selling writer of the Shiver trilogy.

There are more than 1.7 million copies of the Shiver trilogy in print.

She was also given publication rights for more than thirty-six foreign editions of Shiver to be licensed.

Linger, the second book in the Shiver trilogy, debuted at number one on the New York Times Bestseller list.

When she arrived in Shropshire she shared some of her stories with the senior section of

by Chrissy Symmons

the school and some youngsters from Packwood Haugh School, Ruyton-XI-Towns.

Liz Stephenson, Adcote's academic deputy, said: "Maggie Stiefvater was very entertaining and the girls really enjoyed her presentations."

"She was very likeable."

"She spoke about her general background and went through a list of 10 commonly asked questions."

Questions

"She also answered several of the girls questions."

"It was really good and went well."

Miss Stephenson said the author, who lives in Virginia, had been writing since she was a little girl and had started 30 novels before one was published.

"It was interesting and inspiring to hear about her sheer determination and the amount of writing she did before she got something published," she said.

Maggie Stiefvater's latest novel The Scorpio Races has been given several five star reviews.

It was also named in best of the year lists for 2011.

The book was a 2012 Michael L. Printz Honour Book by the American Library Association and a New York Times Notable Children's Book.

Two of her novels, The Scorpio Races and The Raven Boys, are due to be made into films by Warner Brothers.

For more information about the author and her work visit her website, at www.maggiestiefvater.com or follow her on Twitter @mstiefvater

Starbucks name links explored by author Peter

THE imminent arrival in Oswestry of Starbucks has prompted a town businessman to research the history of the name he shares with the American coffee giants.

Dr Peter Starbuck, now one of Britain's leading writers on management, has produced a booklet entitled Starbucks - What's in a Name?, and sent a copy to the Seattle headquarters of what is now the largest coffeehouse company in the world.

The businessman found out in his research that originally the company, which opened its first shop in 1971, was to be called Pequod after a whaling ship from Herman Melville's novel Moby Dick, but this name was rejected by some of the co-founders.

The company was instead named after Starbuck, the chief mate on the Pequod.

Although Starbuck was a fictional character, Mr Starbuck discovered a link between Melville's creation and one of his own ancestors.

He said: "The founders of the company wanted an exciting name to promote their brand by reminding people of the romance of coffee trading across the seas."

"And Melville had used authentic whaling names for his characters, which were taken from the whalers of Nantucket, Cape Cod."

One of the founders of the Nantucket whaling industry was the Quaker Edward Starbuck, who was born in Derbyshire in 1604, and



Peter Starbuck

emigrated to the USA at the age of 55.

DNA testing by Leicester University has established that the Shropshire businessman is a direct descendant of Edward Starbuck.

"What started as casual research into my own name turned out to be a fascinating study involving literature, history and genealogy," Mr Starbuck said.

Oswestry's new Starbucks will create 20 jobs when it opens in May at the Mile End roundabout.

Pledge regatta will be biggest

ORGANISERS of the annual Ellesmere Rotary Regatta have promised that this year's event will be the biggest and best yet.

The event on The Mere on July 7 will be the 12th of its kind and bosses said there is a whole host of new events set to make the day a huge success.

It attracts more than 2,000 people but organisers are hoping to boost the numbers with a new traditional village fair and extra attractions.

Geoff Corfield, chairman of the organising committee, said: "We have decided to run again the reenactment group called Historia Normannis doing battle and providing archery practice, but

alongside them there will also be a traditional village green, mainly aimed at primary school children with traditional games and activities."

"There will be morris dancers and we are also hoping, with the support of Meres and Mosses, to have a sailing boat to give people a chance to have a go on it, I think it will be a real interest."

Mr Corfield also said they are trying to organise races on the water and a Curragh, a sailing dinghy of Irish origin.

For information regarding race entry, booking a stall or about other attractions contact Mr Corfield on (01939) 270313.

Ramblers take to hills

RAMBLERS in their 20s and 30s have produced a summer calendar of walks. The Shropshire Young Ramblers will undertake walks over Long Mountain, Rodney's Pillar, Bridgnorth and Lake Vyrnwy of mid Wales in the coming months. The walks vary from six miles to nine miles, and are graded from easy to strenuous. For more information visit the website www.syr.org.uk/mynd2013.shtml or email syr.update@gmail.com

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NEWS

01691 668094

Eleanor's event will help two charities

A SPRINGTIME charity evening inspired by a youngster suffering from a debilitating disease and a man who died after a battle with cancer is being held at Oswestry Cricket Club on April 25 to raise funds for two charities.

Eleanor Ingman-Stone is hoping to raise funds for the Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy charity and Severn Hospice, at the event.

Her grandson Tomas, 12, suffers from Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, a rare disease which causes his muscles to waste away. And she hopes to raise cash for Severn Hospice in memory of her husband Andrew, who died last year aged 51 less than three days after the couple got married.

Mrs Ingman-Stone said: "Since Tomas was diagnosed five years ago I have raised £5,000 for the charity."

She added: "Anyone who has been there or had friends or relatives at Severn Hospice knows what an excellent place it is."

"Andrew, my partner for 22 years and husband for 56 hours, passed away there on April 22 aged 51 years from a rare cancer."

"He spent the last five days of his life in the hospice where staff were marvellous, keeping him pain free and comfortable."

For tickets or more information, call 01691 656193.

Youth centre drumming up support for new band

YOUNGSTERS will be drumming with all manner of recycled items after the launch of Oswestry's own Stomp-style band.

The street drumming group called Urban Pulse is based at the new youth centre, called The Centre, in Oak Street. It has been created for young people of all backgrounds and abilities, aged between 10 and 19-years-old.

Mike Lade, spokesman, said: "Urban Pulse is what's known as a 'street' or 'stomp' band who use recycled buckets, tubs and even dust bins as percussion instruments to produce a unique style of drumming." The group were donated large red buckets and big water bottles to use as instruments.

by Chrissy Symmons

Dalek pays a visit to library

PEOPLE in Oswestry came face to face with Doctor Who's most fearsome adversary at the Oswestry Festival of the Word.

The festival, known as OsLitFest, finished last week after a varied programme including literature, film, drama, poetry, song, and creative writing workshops.

About 150 families filled the library in Arthur Street ready to meet a Dalek which was visiting for the day.

First in the queue was Edward Sloan who boldly marched up to Dalek Khan with a peace offering of a packet of Revels.

Oswestry LitFest event festival director, John Waine, said: "It was a huge amount of fun and great to see so many people of all ages in our fantastic library and really enjoying themselves with all the other activities put on by the library team."

He added: "The Oswestry library team have done a superb job this week and the Dalek has threatened to return."

"Daleks always return don't they?"

It is hoped those practising at the weekly free sessions will be able to join in with the town's torch and Christmas parades.

The project co-ordinator is drum teacher Jay Moore of Fusion Arts Oswestry who says those wanting to take part do not need to have any experience or skill as they will be taught all they need to know.

He said: "We were excited about our first session."

Workshops

"In the first hour we went through the basic rhythms. Some people in the workshop were already drummers and there were some who had never played before."

"We want to reach to all people of all abilities with the workshops. We have lots of plans for the band."

Borderland Rotary Club has given funding to the project to pay joining fees.

Mr Moore, who is a professional drum teacher, said he was very grateful to its members for their very welcome donation.

At the centre there will also be weekly street dance classes from 12pm-1pm on Saturdays. Sessions are being run by Katy Maynard who says they may be able to join up with the street band in the future and create a performance.

For more information visit www.urbanpulse.co.uk and use the contact page, email urbanpulse.sy11@yahoo.co.uk or call Mr Lade on (01691) 650854.



At the first session are Richard Adam, Lal Logan Rawlinson, Cate Hicks, Jay Moore, Emma Samuels, James Samuels and Katie Samuels.

Graham's speech to members of group

GRAHAM Breeze, associate editor of the *Oswestry Chronicle*, was the guest speaker at the March meeting of the Oswestry Group of the Civil Service Retirement Fellowship at the Wynnstey Hotel.

He talked about his background in journalism and the launch of the *Chronicle* two years ago and its aims and future plans.

The next meeting will be held on April 2 at the Wynnstey Hotel, starting at 10.30am when the speaker will be Lyn Stapley, representing the Guide Dogs for the Blind association.

The Spring Lunch, originally scheduled for Tuesday May 21, has been rearranged for Tuesday, May 14 at the Descartes Restaurant, Radbrook College.

There will be a list available at the April meeting. Anyone not able to attend the meeting can contact Anne Wilson, on 650419 for more information and to book their place.

The Fellowship is a local group for government and other pensioners who are welcome to attend the meetings which are usually held on the first Tuesday of each month at the Wynnstey Hotel, starting with coffee at 10.30am.

There is an annual subscription for pensioners who are not members of £10. For more, call 650993.

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Six-bed Victorian home in desirable part of town

An imposing six-bedroom Victorian residence in one of Oswestry's prime residential areas is on the market with Town & Country.

For sale priced at £420,000, Penlas, in Queens Park, has been extensively updated while retaining many period features.

The porch and entrance hall both have a decorative quarry tiled floor.

There is a lounge with attractive parquet flooring, and sitting room with bay window to the

front and ornate fireplace. Double doors open to the spacious family room, which has patio doors to the side garden.

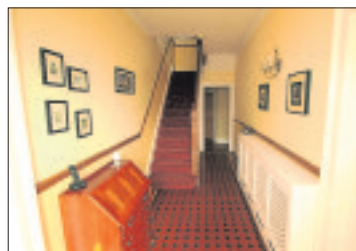
The kitchen/breakfast room has a good range of cream units and integrated appliances. An inner hall has doors to the cellar, utility, cloakroom and rear porch, and there is also a conservatory.

On the first floor, the master bedroom includes a range of fitted wardrobes, dressing room and ensuite bathroom.

There are three further bedrooms on this floor along with a luxurious family bathroom, wc and an office.

On the second floor are bedrooms five and six, which share a shower room/wc.

There are attractive landscaped gardens, ample driveway parking and a brick garage/workshop. For further information contact selling agents Town & Country on 01691 679631 or visit the website www.townandcountryoswestry.com



Roomy ex-vicarage is ripe for refurbishment

The Former Vicarage at Bettisfield, near Ellesmere, is a charming property requiring modernisation and upgrading, with huge potential to become a beautiful family home.

Set in two-thirds of an acre, it is for sale with Parry Lowarch for offers over £350,000.

It has a reception hall, sitting room, dining room, family room, breakfast room, kitchen/utility room, large walk-in pantry and cloakroom, six bedrooms, bathroom, separate wc and a second floor attic room. Outbuildings include a coach bay, stable, open bay and pigsty with further range of ancillary buildings including a store/outside wc.

For more details call Parry Lowarch on 01743 343343 or visit the website www.parrylowarch.co.uk



Smart bungalow looks out over fields to rear

Number 23 Old Mopsis Way, Morda, near Oswestry, is a spacious and comfortably appointed detached bungalow, with views over open fields to the rear.

Set on a small residential development, it is for sale through Bowen Son & Watson at £167,950. Accommodation comprises an entrance hall, lounge, kitchen/breakfast room, conservatory, two spacious bedrooms, shower room, garage, good sized rear garden, driveway with ample parking, double glazing and gas central heating.

For further information contact Bowen Son & Watson on 01691 652367 or visit www.bowensonandwatson.co.uk

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**Paddock Cottage, Nantmawr****Price: £329,000**

NEW **NO CHAIN**

A beautifully appointed and attractively designed modern detached country house with landscaped gardens having mature trees, hedges and shrubs, adjoining paddock and detached outbuilding, set in APPROXIMATELY TWO ACRES of hillside grazing.

- 3 Bed (Master & En-Suite)
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Gardens, Orchard & Paddock
- Outbuilding
- Parking
- Current EPC Rating D

Contact Oswestry**View Cottage, Llanymynech****Price: £285,000**

NEW

This cottage benefits from magnificent views over the English/Welsh borderland to The Breidden Hills and across to the Shropshire Plain. Nestled on the side on Llanymynech Hill this property is a walkers dream with many routes and trails across unspoilt countryside, Offas Dyke or Montgomery Canal.

- 3 Double Bed Cottage
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Sits In Approx 0.65 Of An Acre
- Countryside Views
- 3 Timber Sheds & Summerhouse
- Current EPC Rating E

Contact Oswestry**Windsor Road, Oswestry****Price: £124,950**

NEW

A most well presented two bedroom semi detached property that needs to be viewed to be truly appreciated.

- 2 Bedroom
- Gas Central Heating
- UPVC Double Glazing
- Gardens To Front & Rear
- Ample Car Parking
- Current EPC Rating D

Contact Oswestry**Pwllau Gwyddau, Llanrhaeadr Ym Mochnant****Price: £285,000**

NEW

Dating back to the 1700's this detached South Facing cottage benefits from lovely views and is situated on a quiet country lane a few miles from Llanrhaeadr.

- 3 Bedroom
- Oil CH & Solar Panels
- Double Glazing
- Cottage Gardens & Babbling Brook
- Viewing Advised
- Current EPC Rating E

Contact Oswestry**The Hawthorns, Queens Head****Price: £299,950**

NEW **NO CHAIN**

A four bedroom executive family home with three reception rooms, high specification kitchen and two master suites. The property has the benefit of oil central heating, double glazing and solar panels making this a very energy efficient property.

- Large Reception Hall, Study, Cloakroom
- Sitting Room, Lounge, Kitchen
- 2 Master Suites & 2 Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom
- Double Garage & Parking, Gardens
- Current EPC Rating B

Contact Oswestry**Regent Court, Oswestry****Price: £118,500**

NEW **NO CHAIN**

A well appointed two bedroom first floor apartment within easy level walking distance to the town centre.

- 2 Bed Apartment
- Walking Distance To Town
- Double Glazing
- Parking
- Communal Areas
- Current EPC Rating B

Contact Oswestry**College Road, Oswestry****Price: £174,950**

NEW

Occupying a large corner plot, this detached three bedroom bungalow has been updated by the current owners.

- 3 Bedroom
- UPVC Double Glazing
- Gas Fired Central Heating
- Detached Garage, Car Port & Parking
- Large Corner Plot
- Current EPC Rating D

Contact Oswestry**Station Road, Whittington****Price: £164,950**

NEW

An immaculate semi detached Victorian family home offering spacious accommodation with parking, carport/garage and garden.

- 2 Bedroom Semi Detached
- Updated By Current Vendor
- Gas CH & UPVC DG
- Garage / Carport & Parking
- Garden & Patio Area
- Current EPC Rating E

Contact Oswestry**Glanrafon, Llanwddyn****Price: £235,000**

NO CHAIN

Set in a beautiful rural location a spacious five bedroom country cottage with character and charm throughout, offering two reception rooms, parking and gardens.

- 5 Bedroom
- 2/3 Reception Rooms
- Gardens & Parking
- Rural Location
- Viewing Recommended
- Current EPC Rating F

Contact Oswestry**Amberwood, Pant****Price: £299,950**

NEW **NO CHAIN**

This detached family home is deceptively spacious, situated on an elevated position with panoramic views across the Shropshire Plain to the Breidden Hills and Rodney's Pillar.

- 5/6 Bedroom (2 With En-Suites)
- 2/3 Receptions & Conservatory
- Oil CH & DG
- Double Garage & Parking
- Versatile & Adaptable Accommodation
- Current EPC Rating D

Contact Oswestry**Bron Frynwy, Llanymynech****Price: £355,000**

NEW **NO CHAIN**

A five bedroom detached property with adjoining paddocks and outbuildings situated on the edge of a popular village set in over 5 acres.

- 5 Bedrooms
- 3 Reception Rooms
- Set In Over 5 Acres
- Outbuildings
- DG & Oil CH
- Current EPC Rating F

Contact Oswestry**Banhadla Cottages, Pentre Felin****Price: £94,950**

NEW **NO CHAIN**

A three bedroom cottage situated in a picturesque hamlet location with views of the open countryside from both front and rear.

- 3 Bedroom Cottage
- Situated in Tanat Valley
- Gardens To Front & Rear
- Requires Updating
- Current EPC Rating F

Contact Oswestry**Oak Drive, Oswestry****Price: £182,950**

This immaculate 1930's three bedroom semi detached family home offers spacious accommodation and is situated in a pleasant cul de sac location.

- 3 Bed (2 Double)
- 2 Receptions & Conservatory
- Garage & Parking
- Gardens
- Gas CH & DG
- Current EPC Rating E

Contact Oswestry**New Road, Glyn Ceiriog****Price: £227,500**

A detached spacious bungalow situated in the popular village of Glyn Ceiriog, offering adaptable accommodation warmed by oil fired central heating and benefiting from UPVC double glazing, garage and ample car parking.

- 3 Bedroom Detached Bungalow
- Popular Village Location
- Oil Central Heating
- UPVC Double Glazing
- Garage & Parking
- Spacious Accommodation

Contact Oswestry**Trinity Close, Gobowen****Price: £155,000**

NEW

A SPACIOUS THREE BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED PROPERTY IN THE POPULAR VILLAGE OF GOBOWEN

- 3 Bedroom (Master & En-Suite)
- Gas Central Heating
- UPVC Double Glazing
- Gardens
- Parking

Contact Oswestry**Caethle, Meifod****Price: £249,950**

A 15th century three bedroom detached character cottage overlooking the Penarth Valley, this property needs to be viewed to be fully appreciated

- 3 Bed Detached Cottage
- Oil Central Heating
- Workshop & Barn
- Gardens
- Rural Location
- Current EPC Rating E

Contact Oswestry**Chapel Croft, Weston Rhyn****Price: £219,950**

This immaculate detached three bedroom bungalow with large conservatory, garage and parking must be viewed to be appreciated.

- 3 Bedroom (Master & En-Suite)
- UPVC Double Glazing
- Gas Fired Central Heating
- Gardens
- Garage & Parking
- Current EPC Rating C

Contact Oswestry**Breidden View, Wern, Llanymynech****Price: Offers over £229,995**

This NON ESTATE detached and attractive 4 bedroomed home has had only one careful owner since it was built in 2003.

- 4 Bedrooms (Master & En-Suite)
- 3 Reception Rooms
- South Facing Rear Gardens
- Detached Garage & Parking
- Outskirts Of Village
- Current EPC Rating C

Contact Oswestry

Head Office 01743 284777

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			Shrewsbury	Shrewsbury	Shrewsbury
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			■ End of terrace house ■ Three bedrooms ■ Garden ■ Garage ■ Parking ■ EPC Band D	■ Detached bungalow ■ Three bedrooms ■ Garage & Parking	■ Terrace house ■ Two bedrooms ■ Garden
			£725 pcm	£695 pcm	£675 pcm
			West Felton	Hanwood	Bitton
			■ Four bedroom bungalow ■ Large garden ■ Ample parking ■ EPC Band E	■ Detached house ■ Three bedrooms ■ Garden ■ Ample parking ■ EPC Band C	■ Two bedroom apartment ■ Second floor ■ Parking space ■ Communal gardens ■ EPC Band C
			£895 pcm	£795 pcm	£725 pcm
			Eaton Constantine	Church Stretton	Longden
			■ Detached barn conversion ■ Four bedrooms ■ Large garden ■ EPC band D	■ Detached house ■ Four bedrooms ■ 3/4 acre garden ■ Garage	■ Detached five bedroom house ■ Three doubles, 2 singles, 1 study ■ Gardens ■ Double garage ■ EPC Band D
			£1,250 pcm	£1,235 pcm	£995 pcm



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NEW - NO CHAIN

- A most spacious and comfortably appointed Detached Dormer Bungalow situated within a premier residential area within the town and convenient to all facilities
- Ent Porch, Wide Entrance Hall, Large Sitting Rm, Kitchen/Breakfast Rm, 2 Ground Floor Bedrooms or one bedroom and a Dining rm
- Box Room, 2 Further Bedrooms, Family Bathroom & Separate WC
- Delightful lawned gardens to fore & rear, parking for several vehicles together with a garage. D/G, Oil C/H. EPC Rating E

Llanforda Rise Oswestry £229,950



NEW - NO CHAIN

- A most delightful and well presented four bedroomed Mid-Terrace property that was constructed to high standards in 2007
- Entrance Hall, Cloakroom, a Large Sitting/Dining Room, a feature Kitchen with integrated appliances and granite working surfaces, Study
- Four Excellent Bedrooms, En-Suite, Shower Room and Family Bathroom
- Quality fittings and fittings throughout and recently decorated through, security system
- Double glazing, Gas C/H, integral garage, parking to fore for several vehicles. EPC Rating C

Lutton Close Oswestry £225,000



Watkin Drive Oswestry £395,000

- A most impressive and spacious Detached House set within an exclusive and spacious development for only five executive homes
- Reception Hall, Guest Cloaks, Sitting Rm with bay, Large Conservatory
- Separate Dining Rm, Study, Fitted Kitchen/Breakfast Rm, Utility
- Gallery Landing, 4 Bedrooms, Shower Rm & Luxury Family Bathrm
- Gas C/H, D/G, delightful gardens, double garage. EPC Rating D



Porth-Y-Waen Nr Oswestry £229,995

- A spacious 4 Bedroom Detached Bungalow in the hamlet of Porth-Y-Waen
- Situated in a large elevated plot with excellent views over countryside to rear
- Ent Hall, Large Lounge/Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility Room
- Master Bedroom with Shower Rm, 3 other Bedrooms & Family Bathrm
- Large garden at rear with raised patio area & Detached Workshop
- Large driveway with ample parking, D/G and Oil C/H. EPC Rating D



NO CHAIN

- A spacious and well appointed 2/3 Bedroom Detached Dormer Bungalow located close to the centre of the popular village of St Martins.
- Kitchen, Living Room and Bathroom together with a Dining Room which alternatively could be used as a ground floor bedroom.
- On the first floor are two further spacious Bedrooms. Externally the property benefits from a good size garden, garaging and off-road parking.
- uPVC double glazing throughout, uPVC gutters and fascia boards and gas fired central heating. EPC Rating D

Berwyn Drive St. Martins £189,995

Weston Nr Oswestry £425,000



NEW



- > A rare opportunity to purchase a Grade II Listed Mill which has been sympathetically converted to create a spacious home. The property boasts excellent views over its own Mill Pond and the countryside beyond
- > Through careful design and craftsmanship the current owners have created spacious and modern living accommodation which preserves the character of this iconic building and retains a host of original features including a working water wheel and some of the original workings
- > Outside the property has picturesque gardens set around the extensive Mill Pond which provides an idyllic backdrop for this stunning property



Ardleen Nr Welshpool £354,995

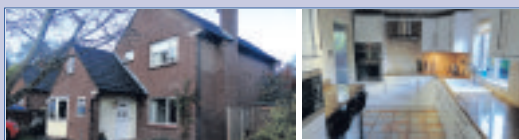
- A most comfortably appointed and spacious Modern Detached Residence only twelve years old, built to very high standards
- Storm Porch, Large Reception Hall, Cloaks, Study, Spacious Lounge, Sitting Rm, Dining Room, Kitchen/Breakfast Room, First Floor Landing
- Master Bedroom & Guest Bedroom (both en-suite), Two Further Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom
- LPG gas central heating, high security double glazing, intruder alarm, double garage & ample parking on a sweeping graveled driveway. EPC Rating D



LARGE GARDEN - NO CHAIN

- A most delightful Detached Country Cottage set adjacent to open countryside in a picturesque location
- Sitting Room, Dining Room, New Kitchen/Breakfast Room. Three Bedrooms, New Bathroom Suite
- LP Gas C/H. Double Glazing, Off road parking, Fully enclosed good size rear gardens
- The cottage has undergone electrical rewiring, modern LP Gas C/H system is installed. EPC Rating F

Ball Lane Maesbury £229,500



Berlian Close Weston Rhyn £204,995

- A superbly appointed Detached Family House situated in an ideal location within walking distance of the centre of the popular village of Weston Rhyn which has a host of facilities and amenities including the Shropshire Union Canal
- Entrance Hall, Cloaks, Family Room, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility Room, Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Bedroom Four/Study
- Large private gardens and ample off road parking. uPVC Double Glazing & Oil central heating. EPC Rating D



NEW

- A spacious and comfortably appointed Detached Bungalow with views over open fields to the rear situated on a small residential development on the edge of the popular village of Morda.
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Conservatory, Two Spacious Bedrooms, Shower Room and Integral Garage
- The property also has a good size rear garden whilst to the front of the property is a tarmac driveway with ample parking for two cars. uPVC Double Glazing and Gas C/H. EPC Rating D

Old Mopsis Way Morda £167,950



Milars Field Morda £139,950

- A well positioned and most comfortably appointed Mid-Terrace Residential House, just over five years old and offering generous accommodation on a well planned layout.
- Principally includes: Entrance Hall, Large Sitting Room, Kitchen/Dining Room, Three Excellent Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, En-Suite Shower Room
- Double glazing throughout, Gas central heating, a delightful paved garden and sun patio to the rear, parking for two cars. EPC Rating C



Croeswylan Lane Oswestry £239,950

- A most comfortably appointed and spacious Detached House
- Entrance Hall, Sitting Room, Dining Room, Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- Rear Lobby/Utility/Cloaks together with Four Excellent Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom and En Suite. Gas fired central heating, double glazing
- Sun patio and delightful enclosed gardens to the rear. Ample parking to fore
- EPC Rating C



NO CHAIN

- A most spacious Detached Residential Dwelling House set within a popular area within the attractive village of West Felton being approximately 5 miles from Oswestry and 12 miles from Shrewsbury.
- Offering generous accommodation on a well planned layout. Entrance Porch, Wide Entrance Hall, Cloakroom, Large Sitting Room, Dining Room, Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Utility/Rear Lobby,
- Four Excellent Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, En-Suite Shower Room. Oil C/H, double glazing, double garage. EPC Rating D

The Maltings West Felton £225,000



Belle Vue Morda £147,000

- A most comfortably appointed and spacious Semi-Detached House in the Centre of the popular village of Morda being approximately one mile from Oswestry
- In immaculate order throughout, Porch, Entrance Hall, Cloakroom, Lounge, Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Conservatory
- 3 Bedrooms, Re-fitted Bathroom. Gas Central Heating, double glazing, off-road parking, larger than average garage and space for caravan. EPC Rating C

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The Mill, Yockleton

A well proportioned & beautifully renovated former watermill with original features, extensive garage range with scope for alternative use, additional agricultural building, pasture, woodland & delightful stream side location.

- Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen/Dining Area, Utility.
- 6 Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Shower Room.
- Garage, Ample Parking, Gardens.
- Former Farm Buildings
- IN ALL APPROX. 14 ACRES.

Price: On Application £0

Contact Shrewsbury



HR2388

Maple Cottage, Dovaston

A most appealing detached character country cottage with outbuilding range and land in a sought after rural locality. In all about 3.5 acres.

- Open Plan Sitting Room/Library/Snug.
- Dining Room, Cloakroom, Sep. WC.
- Breakfast Kitchen, Utility Room.
- 3 Bedrooms, En Suite, Shower, Bathroom.
- Gardens, Grazing Land, Range of Out Buildings.
- Current EPC Rating: E

Price: Region £425,000

Contact Shrewsbury



HR2455

Bank House, Walford

A substantial and imposing detached grade II listed period country house with further potential whilst set in attractive gardens in a popular locality.

- Sitting Room, Drawing Room, Dining Room.
- Kitchen, Laundry Room, Cellar, Rear Ent. Hall.
- 6 Bedrooms, Wash Room, Shower Room, Bathroom.
- Garage with Loft, Front & Rear Gardens.
- Current EPC Rating: D

Price: Region £399,950

Contact Shrewsbury



HR359000

4 Fairlawn Gardens, Meole Village

An attractively presented and deceptively spacious detached bungalow offering well proportioned accommodation with neatly maintained gardens located in this private end cul de sac position

- Rec. Hall, Lounge, Dining Room.
- Breakfast Kitchen, Utility.
- 3 Bedrooms - Master with en Suite Shower Room, Family Bathroom.
- Large Driveway, Double Garage.
- Workshop, Attractive Gardens.
- Current EPC Rating: D

Price: Region £359,000

Contact Shrewsbury



HR2457

Grumpy, Nr Myddle

An appealing and deceptively spacious detached country cottage with scope to modernise and extend with extensive lawned gardens and set in a most desirable and unspoilt rural location.

- In Need Of Modernisation & Improvement
- Sitting Room, Dining Room.
- Study, Cloak/Shower Room, Kitchen
- 3 Double Bedrooms, Bathroom
- Generous Sized Gardens
- Double Garage
- Current EPC Rating: F

Price: Region £310,000

Contact Shrewsbury



HR2431

1 Redstone Cottage, Dunns Heath

A most attractive extended semi-detached period cottage with versatile accommodation, splendid gardens and views in a sought after rural locality.

- Ent. Hall, Sitting Room, Dining Room.
- Garden Room, Utility, Cloaks/WC, Kitchen.
- Family Room, 4 Bedrooms, 2 En Suite Bedrooms, Family Bathroom.
- Attractive & Extensive Gardens, Ample Parking.
- IN ALL ABOUT 0.38 ACRE.
- Current EPC Rating: E

Price: Region £299,500

Contact Shrewsbury



HR2372

Red Point, Harmer Hill

An immaculately presented and recently extended and improved detached dormer residence offering versatile accommodation with gardens.

- Rec. Hall, Living Room.
- Dining Room, Breakfast Kitchen, Utility.
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HR2159

5 Sycamore Drive, Wem

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- Current EPC Rating: D

Price: Region £269,950

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HR2461

Ayrshire House, Westbury

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- Current EPC Rating: E

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Local Tradesmen



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NEWS

01691 668094

Cheese is on menu at Rotary club talk

AWARD-winning cheese-maker Robert Ayres was guest speaker at the Borderland Rotary Club last week.

Seven visiting Rotarians from the Shawbury Rotary Club were among those who welcomed Mr Ayres from Abertan Farm near Llanyblodwell in the Tanat Valley.

The Eyres family produces award-winning hand-made cheese under the name of the Shropshire Cheese Company on their Shropshire dairy farm. They use the milk from their own Holstein herd.

The purpose-built dairy and cheese making equipment is next to the farm house.

Members were able to enjoy at a tasting session of a range of cheeses.

Borderland Rotary meets on a Wednesday evening at 7.30pm at the Sweeney Hall Hotel.

More information on the Borderland club can be found at www.borderlandrotary.co.uk

Fundraiser at hall

THE Oswestry Branch of the League of Friends at the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital are having a fundraising event on Saturday, April 6, in the Memorial Hall Oswestry at 10am.

Horse-drawn fire engine sparks appeal for photos

by Chrissy Symmons

A NEW research project inspired by an 1800s fire engine has begun as a history society delves into the past of Oswestry Fire Brigade to create a time line.

Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service History Society is looking for pictures, information or memories of the fire station in Mount Road.

It already has some photographs and information but its members would love to create a time line, which once completed can be put on display at the town's station.

The society also has a vision to try and house an old 1880s horse drawn fire engine, a Shand and Mason Manual Hand Pump Fire Engine, which has been hidden away in a metal container for the last 15 years. But this is just a dream for them at the moment.

Fantastic

Katy Lowe, the society's founder, said: "The fire engine is fantastic."

"It is in a metal container and it is completely dusty. It has been there for 15 years and no one has seen it. It has all the original chimney hooks."

"It is fantastic and really interesting." She said Mrs Wynne Corrie of Park Hall gave the Town of Oswestry the new fire engine on March 18, 1887. It was a horse-drawn cart with lots of modern devices on it but the horse was not provided.

Miss Lowe, 30, said she has not set a timeframe for when the timeline project would be concluded and urges people to get in touch to help out.

"I have been digging into the archives," she said. "It is amazing what you can find



One of the old fire engines at Park Hall.

online as well. There are also still some serving firefighters with ancestors in Oswestry's station.

"Already I have come across some old photographs

"I have started to construct the time line. "A lady in Oswestry has written brief his-

tory of Oswestry. I would like more photos and more information or anything that has local information."

Miss Lowe's, who works for the Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service's control room, has a background in the service with both her grandfather and uncles being fire-



An Oswestry fire engine manned by volunteers in 1887.



Oswestry firefighters from around 1900.

fighters. Anyone with any information, memories or other items relevant to Oswestry Fire Station who would like to share it with the society can email sfrshistory@yahoo.co.uk

For more information visit <http://sfrshistory.wordpress.com/>

NEWS

in brief

Grants available to activity groups

SPORTS and physical activity groups in Powys are being urged to take advantage of a grant worth up to £1,500 to help create thriving clubs.

The grants are available through the Sportlot Community Chest, the Sports Council for Wales National Lottery funded grant aid scheme.

The next deadline for applications is Thursday, March 28.

For more information or an application form contact the Sport Development Team on 01686 614060 or email ange.la.williams@powys.gov.uk

Application forms can also be downloaded from www.sportwales.org.uk.

Crews called to chimney blaze

FIRE crews were called to a chimney fire which caused smoke to fill the roof of a Melverley home.

The fire happened shortly after 6pm on March 20 at a two-storey detached property. Pumps from Baschurch and Shrewsbury attended the scene. No-one was evacuated during the incident.

£9m for hospitals

WELSH hospitals have been left nearly £9m in wills in the past three financial years, new figures show. Health officials say the money is never expected, but can provide services which are not funded by the NHS.

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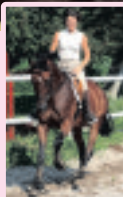
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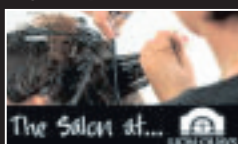
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Loving couple look back on 40 years as foster carers

LIKE many families Pat and Mavis Humby enjoy nothing better than a holiday by the sea with their children, enjoying simple pleasures such as building sandcastles or enjoying an ice cream.

Like many proud parents they also have albums of photographs of youngsters who now have youngsters of their own. But unlike many families, the Humbys have memories of not two or three children, nor six or seven – but of scores of youngsters going back 40 years.

Now the couple, who have given more than 100 children a loving home in Oswestry over the last four decades, are retiring as foster carers.

Pat and Mavis Humby are Shropshire's longest-serving foster carers, having cared for babies and children since 1972.

In recognition of their enormous contribution, the couple were presented with an award at a celebratory event hosted by Shropshire Council's children's placement service this week.

It is more than 40 years since their first foster child stepped over their threshold, when their own son and daughter were just three and four years old.

Since then their own children have grown up to have children of their own – as have many of the foster children who have kept in touch with the couple.

Mrs Humby, 72, said: "Both Pat and myself have thoroughly enjoyed giving children the best start in life and helping them on to a secure and loving home. We have been really fortunate in seeing many of them grow up to be parents themselves.

"If I had a chance I would do it all over again. Fostering is incredibly rewarding and we have had many, many happy memories of the children who have come to stay – including all the holidays in our caravan over the years. But it can sometimes be extremely hard work.

"I used to do most of the work but it has been really helpful since Pat retired – it meant two of us could share the work of

by Sue Austin

one." She said their son and daughter, Nicholas and Lisa, treated having a flow of other children – up to five at a time – through their home, as normal.

"I suppose they never knew anything else, most of the time we were a family of seven. But they are both very caring, practical, common sense people and I expect this has played a part in that."

She admitted that she and her husband did get attached to the children.

"You do have to accept that they will not be with you for ever, and that finding a permanent home is the very best thing that can happen," said Mavis. "But you are bound to get a little attached.

"All you can hope is that – for the time you have them – you've given them care and security, a firm foundation, and that this will stay with them. We're so proud of all the children who've been with us for what they've achieved and for who they are."

Some of the children stayed long-term – three for about 20 years. Others came and went. Many are still in regular touch.

Kath Edwards, Shropshire Council's head of children's safeguarding, said: "Foster carers like Pat and Mavis do a fantastic, rewarding job, and do so much to enrich the lives of children and young people; they are a real credit to our communities."

To find out more call 0800 7838 798.



Mavis and Pat Humby taking a look at their album full of fostering memories.



The Humby's own children, Lisa and Nicholas.



Pat and Mavis at their wedding in 1963.

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Academy is in full swing for golf fans

A GOLF academy is now in full swing at an Ellesmere school.

The Ellesmere College Golf Academy has been launched following the success of the institution's rugby, tennis, shooting and cricket academies.

The academy has been set up with the help of golf coach Keith Williams who runs his own academy at Hawkstone Park Golf Club.

It will offer students the chance to gain sports qualifications with the added advantage of getting professional golf coaching.

A spokesman for Ellesmere College said: "Keith Williams is recognised as one of the leading coaches in Europe with a career spanning over 30 years.

"He has coached most of the bright young stars on the European Tour including top golfers such as PGA Champions Scott Drummond and Andy Marshall, as well as several England squads and, most recently, the Czech National Squad."

Mr Williams added: "I am delighted to have my academy linked with Ellesmere College and I recognise the potential for overseas attraction, but I also feel that it offers local golfers and their parent's further choices for combining education and sport."

Resident band memories

by Toby Neal

A FEW weeks ago we asked if anybody had a picture of the George Riley Band, which was the resident band for many years at the Garrison Theatre at Park Hall.

Not only did John Pugh come up with a picture or two, he has gone one better – as he used to play in the band and is one of a dwindling number of surviving members.

"I was in the band for about 15 years," said John, of Trefonen, who is now 83.

Drummer

"The picture is a rehearsal in George Riley's lounge, down Oswald Road. That was in 1947 – that's what it says on my copy.

"From left are Frank Lloyd, his brother Doug Lloyd, then me, then Jack Jones.

"In the background, standing, is Eddie Blackwell, the drummer.

"We rehearsed as necessary.

"Jack Jones and myself are wearing bow ties so we must have been off to play at the dance afterwards.

"The other three are not, so they had obviously just come for rehearsal."

Explaining how he got involved in the band as a trumpet player John, who was living then at Llynclys, recalled: "George Riley was conductor of Porthywaen band brass band for about two years.

"He approached me one night and said would I join his dance band, which of course I did.



Rehearsals at George Riley's home in 1947. John Pugh is all dressed up in his bow tie, ready to play with the full band later.

"I must have been about 15. I was in the Porthywaen band, which I joined in 1942.

"I must have been a good player.

"I have got a very old programme from a concert that the Porthywaen band gave in 1944.

"I was down there as the soloist, so I must have been able to do something.

"There's a thing I remember about George Riley that most people would not remember. I played in goal for Morda United in those days and George Riley was the centre half.

"Down Oswald Road in Oswestry there's a dentists, and George Riley lived in the flat above the dentist for several

years, then for several years took over as the licensee of The Ball at Maesbury.

"He was a delightful person and a very good musician. He was musically trained and played on the Front at Aberystwyth with a small orchestra."

● We'll continue with some more of John's memories next week.

Grant for computer HQ to aid villagers

THE Ruyton-Xi-Towns Broadplace computer headquarters has been given a grant to upgrade its information technology.

Those who run the Broadplace, in the village hall, said giving people access to computers was helping people of all ages.

An after-school club sees more than a dozen young people use the facilities while recently a couple in their 80s booked a six-week cruise on the internet at the Broadplace.

Now members of the Five Perry Parishes have given £500 to upgrading the computers.

Councillor Colin Case said the Broadplace opened five years ago with six laptops provided by the Switch on Shropshire project.

Since then the group has found ways to add to the equipment, with two new laptops and others upgraded.

He said: "We have helped parishioners with the change over to digital TV, to add their names to organ donation registers, apply for a bus pass and compile CVs and apply for jobs. The group is also able to assist in responding to Shropshire Council consultations."

He said that people from the neighbouring parishes of Baschurch, Ness and West Felton had also been able to use the facilities.

STOP THINK!

Remember A&E and 999 are for life threatening or serious injuries and illnesses.

Don't forget there are a range of other NHS services available for minor conditions, including: Shropdoc, pharmacies, walk in centres and the minor injury units in Shropshire.

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Wedding memories call from website

MARRIED couples from across Mid Wales are being urged to share their memories of their wedding day for a website dedicated to preserving the story of Wales.

The People's Collection Wales says it wants to hear from couples about their wedding days, from years ago to the present day to add to its collection online.

The organisation is a bilingual website dedicated to sharing the history and experience of Wales and its people with the world.

The collection is a constantly growing resource.

Rheinallt Ffoster-Jones, of People's Collection Wales, said: "With March being a traditional month for wedding fayres, Powys residents are being urged to share memories of weddings over the decades with People's Collection Wales, a website dedicated to preserving the story of Wales."

"Old snaps and stories relating to marriages from the engagement through to preparations, ceremonies, and receptions can be shared with the People's Collection Wales to help capture a true picture of the traditions and interesting stories in Powys through the years."

Anyone with historical photographs to share or wanting more information should visit www.peoplescollectionwales.co.uk

Meet the girl who at 16 ran away to join the circus

SOMETIMES people dream about running away from it all and joining the circus – but that is exactly what Tracy Jones did.

She was just 16 when she took the brave step to run away and last week she was back in Oswestry with her own circus.

The 45 year old was born in Welshpool, lived in Llanymynech and Pant and was schooled in Oswestry.

But at the age of 16 she decided to leave her family and friends and work for the circus – a decision she has never regretted.

"When I was in school I used to work in chicken factories in the weekend, I picked the eggs," she said. "Then my friend and I began looking after horses for a French stunt man and we went on galas with him. I was 15 years old and it was great."

Summer arrived and the stunt man told Tracy he was off to join the circus for four weeks. She decided to go along, too.

"I went and joined Gandeys Circus," she said. "I was 16 years old and just left school. I loved it."

"I went home and told my mum I was leaving for the circus. I was given the job to do the posters."

"My mum was mortified."

Tears

She packed all her clothes into a black bag before waving goodbye to her parents at the train station.

Tracy said: "They were crying but I was excited."

She was given a little caravan and she put up posters for the circus, looked after the horses and worked the spotlights.

Sometimes she went into the ring to kiss a python or stood against the knifeboard as knives were thrown.

"It was scary," she said. "But I was young and did anything. I ended up doing other things including riding elephants and being on the flying trapeze."

Working for the circus has taken her

WOMEN OF SUBSTANCE

with Chrissy Symmons



across the globe and in her late 20s she spent eight months in Taiwan where she learnt further circus skills. She also travelled to Dubai.

About 14 years ago Tracy met her husband Julio, a Bulgarian acrobat, when he joined the circus she was in.

The pair now have a nine year-old daughter called Nia who loves to perform in the circus.

Last year Tracy decided to form her own circus show. It is called Circus Funtasia and is on tour. She is the ring mistress and was at Oswestry Showground for five days last week.

"It's great to be bringing the show to my home town," said Tracy.

"My parents Gary and Elynd Jones were both really excited – and all the family were at the showground, which was really nice. My mother couldn't wait to see the new circus."

She said being in the circus has seen her travel the world and she has enjoyed it.



Tracy Jones, from Oswestry, director and ringmistress of Circus Funtasia.

Activities for Easter put on by Sure Start

THE SURE Start Children's Centre at Gobowen Primary School held Easter activities on Monday morning for families with young children.

There was an Easter egg hunt, Easter bonnet making and planting of seeds to watch them grow over the coming weeks.

There was also face painting and toys to play with.

Alex Kages, Shropshire Council's senior children's centre support worker, said: "For parents new to children's centre services this was a good opportunity to experience what is on offer at a 'Stay and Play' session first-hand. Staff were there to answer any questions and give extra information on both the services provided and any parenting queries."

"It's always helpful, particularly for first time parents, to meet others in their position, and there was the chance to meet other parents in similar positions to themselves."

Regular 'Stay and Play' sessions are run every Monday, at the same time, at Gobowen Primary School in the demountable building next to Gobowen All-rounders Pre-school.

Call the Sure Start Children's Centres north team on (01691) 656513 or visit shropshire.gov.uk/surestartchildrenscentres.nsf

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FEATURE & NEWS

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Head Gary is latest member of Rotary

THE headmaster of a school has become the latest member of a Rotary Club in Oswestry.

Gary Wright, from Adcote School for Girls, has been welcomed in as a member of Borderland Rotary Club. He is the sixth new member to join the club this year.

Mr Wright, who is married with two children, lives near Oswestry and works at the independent day and boarding school for girls in Little Ness, near Shrewsbury.

Mr Wright joined the school in 2009 after previously being the deputy head of independent schools in Berkshire and central London.

He is also an inspector for the Independent Schools Inspectorate and regional secretary for the Independent Schools Association.

Borderland Rotary President Michael Tomley welcomed Mr Wright to the club.

He said: "Mr Wright makes us up to six new members this year for Borderland."

"We are always looking for younger business or ex-business people to join our thriving club and we particularly welcome females to join our growing number of ladies."

"Everyone has something to offer."

Give Britain's feisty robin a helping hand to hold on

BE patient, be patient! With British Summer Time due on Sunday, it doesn't really seem right that we are still wallowing in the icy melt water of winter, still it could be worse – you could actually be out there in it.

The wildlife of Shropshire continues to put up a sterling fight against our wintry weather and some even have time to sing about it. Although this time last year most of the birds in the fields and hedgerows were warbling their hearts out, today it seems only the most strident species are doing so.

The song thrush is often known as the bravest singer, but it is a smaller member of the thrush family, our national bird, the robin which perhaps also deserves this crown.

British robins are amongst the hardiest of their kind. Whereas on the continent this species migrates to the Mediterranean for the winter, ours remain not only in the same country but in the vicinity of their birth, all through their lives. Indeed here in Shropshire they are beloved of gardeners and vice versa and known as a very friendly and amicable bird. However, on the continent they are wary and hard to approach.

Both male and female robins hold their own territories in the winter, so both sexes sing the same winter song in order to maintain their melodic grip on their surroundings. Come breeding time, though, while the female is busy tending her brood males also need to have an eye open for challengers and will fight to the death to preserve their territory and that of their mate.

It is said that juvenile robins only acquire their red breast after their first moult so that

ON THE WILD SIDE with Ben Waddams



they are not targeted by angry males and killed before they have the time to reach adulthood. It is well known that cats kill masses of British song birds.

But it is also true to say that the number of robin deaths, although hugely increased by cats (and therefore many a cat-owner), is also down to the aggressiveness of their fellow robins.

Although before my time, postmen used to be known as robin or redbreast due to the Royal Mail's penchant for the same colour. And just as we can tell our postal workers apart, so, in theory, is it possible to tell apart different individual robins through their red patterning. The feather arrangement on the breast is different for each individual bird, a kind of downy fingerprint and so, with difficulty, it is possible to distinguish each and every bird apart.

As with many of our garden animals, seeing one doesn't necessarily mean you'll see the same one again. But at least with the robin it is possible to do so. Most pairs of robins will try and raise as many as three broods of chicks a year, but some manage as many as five.

In a time of diminished wildlife, it is so important to help protect and encourage such a feisty, productive and emblematic creature as the robin. And what's more, with a scattering of feed, you can do so without having to leave the comfort of your home!

Ben's wildlife art can be seen online at www.waddams.webs.com



Spring Morn, acrylic on board, by Ben Waddams.

Plans on track for two heart machines

PLANS to install two life-saving defibrillators in Ellesmere are on track.

Ellesmere Rotary Club is behind the scheme and the first machine, located at the Cross Street car park, will be formally received on behalf of the town by the mayor, Councillor Alan Clarke.

A short ceremony will take place from 11am on April 3 at the car park.

A second unit will also be commissioned at the Boat-house restaurant, next to the Mere.

In preparation, the Rotary Club has organised two public training sessions, which will be hosted by the West Midlands Ambulance Service.

These will take place at Crippins Parish Hall, near Ellesmere, from 1pm on April 14, and at the Boat-house from 10am on April 30.

Both events are free of charge and anyone interested in taking part is welcome.

Places can be booked by calling Bob McBride on 01691 622359 or Peter Broadbent on 01691 690304 to reserve a place.

The defibrillator units are used to help anyone who suffers a sudden cardiac arrest.

Joe Hart Easter Soccer Schools

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✓ "I have had a great time, and made lots of new friends." - player age 7

✓ "The coaching has been great, I have played lots of football and learned lots of new skills." - player age 10

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THE ARTS

Exhibition will showcase skills swap artists' work

by Graham Breeze

ARTISTS are swapping skills as part of a new exhibition which is taking place in Oswestry.

Jas Davidson is a 3D artist but will instead be trying his hand at painting while Jood Gough, who normally paints, will be creating a sculpture.

They will both be at the Screamin' Chicken Gallery until Saturday working on the unusual project.

One piece is hoped to be painted on 24 tiny canvases and the other will use 15 metres of muslin and may even include black ink, graphite, liquefied clay, sanguine and white chalk.

Mr Davidson, who has been an artist for about 29 years, said he had currently completed six canvases using oil paints at the gallery.

He is the artist behind the Griffin Inn's 'sign' which is a sculptured figure sitting on a swing, another sitting on a window ledge and a third seemingly suspended in mid-air.

Different

"It is a very interesting doing something different," he said. "We can all get into our comfort zones. It is necessary for somebody to change themselves to something they're not used to keep them on their toes and learn a new skill."

"I don't think I will become a painter but I am having fun finding out why not."

"I have painted about six canvases but I may paint over them again. I am using oil paints which are difficult to dry. I have got a fairly standard range of colours that I am using."

"Jood has got a roll of muslin hanging from the ceiling and is processing it in with clay and is making shapes."

Mr Davidson, who has lived in Oswestry for 12 years, said he has not stopped doing 3D sculptures outside of the Screamin' Chicken Gallery.

A party will be held Saturday at 2pm to celebrate the conclusion of the exhibition and everyone is invited to go along.



Jas Davidson and Jood Gough at the Screamin' Chicken Gallery.



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GIG GUIDE

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Range of activities lined up for Easter

GIG GUIDE

with Chrissy Symmons



EASTER week has arrived and there are a number of gigs and activities taking place across Oswestry, Welshpool and the borders.

The music kicks off tomorrow in Welshpool at the Royal Oak Hotel with musician Eddy Gartry.

The event is part of the hotel's Oak Live events which are held every week. Mr Gartry has been described by the event organisers as 'one of the most engaging performers we have had at Oak live'.

A spokesman for the event said: "Eddy is back with his great blues repertoire."

Also on Friday in Marton, near Welshpool, String Thing will be performing at Lowfield Inn in Marton.

The night of free entertainment will take place from 8pm.

For more information about the venue visit www.lowfieldinn.com

On Saturday night Crossfire will be gigging at Oswestry's Ironworks, in Church Street, from 9am.

The band will be supported by The Blue Eyed Beggars.

It is a free event which will start at 9pm.

In Oswestry on Friday and Saturday the Visitor Centre will be holding Easter activities from 10am until 4pm.



Film buffs are invited to a screening of Django Unchained.

Festive fun will also be taking place on the Bailey Head from 11am until 3pm. Mary Poppins will be dropping by and there will also be children's rides, Easter egg hunt, stalls and food plus a Farmers Market too.

Film buffs are invited to a screening of Django Unchained which will be held at the Attfield Theatre, in The Guildhall, on Saturday night. It is directed by Quentin Tarantino and stars actors Jamie Foxx, Christoph Waltz and Leonardo DiCaprio.

Tickets for this screening can be booked by calling the Kinokulture box office on 0845 2500517.

Tickets cost £5 for adults and £3 for under 16s. Doors open at 7pm and

screening starts at 7.30pm

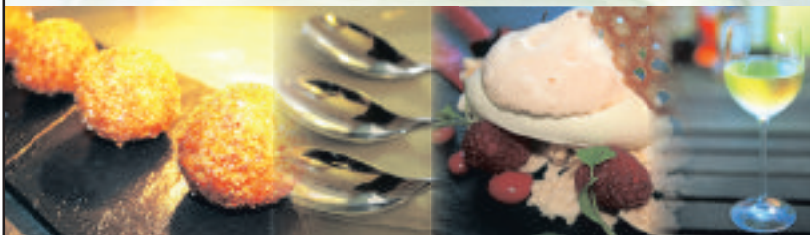
On Sunday night Oswestry's Ironworks will be hosting A Funky Agenda from 8pm until late. The event will feature bands including HedOne, Bog-Standard and DjDeadnice.

On Wednesday the event will be hosting the People's Vinyl Collective from 9pm where people are invited along to spin their discs on the decks.

On Monday nights the Griffin Inn, in Oswestry, will be holding jazz sessions from 8.30pm which will feature a variety of jazz classics, food.

If you have a gig that you would like to see in this guide then e-mail chrissy.symmons@shropshirestar.co.uk

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FOOD REVIEW

Relaxing restaurant serves up award-winning curries

by Sue Austin

WHEN Meryl Hughes wrote in asking us to try the Bengal Spices at Llanymynech, near Oswestry, she suggested we visit on a Wednesday night.

She wrote: "They have a banquet night on a Wednesday, six courses for £9.95, we went there last week and had a brilliant time."

Sadly our weekdays are just so busy that trying to fit in a restaurant meal on a Wednesday was just not happening.

Instead we booked a table for a Saturday night, pleased that, when we rang the night before, staff said they were able to re-arrange the tables to accommodate us.

Without Meryl's recommendation we probably would never have ventured as far as Llanymynech for a meal as there are curry houses much closer to home.

But we were very glad we did.

The restaurant is just off the main A485 trunk road and handily placed next to a village public car park.

Our first impressions were two-fold – what a lovely, cosy interior and how proud the owner must be of his customers.

For, lining one wall, were literally hundreds of photographs of people enjoying their meals in the restaurant.

We next noticed a plaque – or rather a large plate – on the wall, proclaiming Bengal Spices had been named winner of The Welsh Curry House of the Year 2012 for Mid and West Wales.

Praise indeed as there are, apparently, 280 Indian restaurants in Wales.

Bengal Spices was described by judges as 'small and cosy with some nice touches. The menu included all the usual dishes but the tastiness of each dish was exceptional'.

We were shown to our seats and what a pleasant surprise to find that one of the waiters used to go to school with our daughter, Sophie, and, although



The award-winning Bengal Spices of Llanymynech – Indian food with a difference.

they hadn't really known each other well, he remembered us – including me.

As the curry of the year judges had remarked, the menu did indeed have all the usual dishes but also some more unusual additions.

Award-winning

Fear of ordering too much had Sophie and Richard deciding to share an onion bhaji starter – four huge, crispy balls of deep fried onion, more than enough for the pair of them.

But I wasn't going to an award-winning Indian restaurant and share Melvyn's garlic mushrooms.

Instead I opted for Prawn Puri, again a large offering, prawns and onions in a thick sauce on a pancake with plenty of salad on the side. The full

name of the establishment is the Bengal Spice tandoori and balti restaurant and there are plenty of tandoori and balti dishes, as well as everything else you would expect.

Sophie chose her favourite, a Korma, but rang the changes with prawns. She said it was exceedingly creamy with plenty of coconut.

Richard decided to go for something completely different. He chose Lamb Methi, a dish made with fenugreek. The spice gave a tangy taste to the already rich dish.

My choice was Chicken Pathia a great combination of hot and sour tastes and plenty of kick to it. All our mains arrived in huge serving dishes.

But we all wondered whether we should have gone for Mel's choice when it arrived, sizzling on its own

skillet. The Bengal special curry boasted chicken, meat, prawns, mushrooms and onions. It was the restaurant's very own version of one of Mel's favourites – mixed grill – and looked absolutely wonderful.

Mel tucked in with gusto. He has always struggled to choose a dish from an Indian restaurant and this was his perfect choice.

To go with our main courses we chose a couple of different rice dishes, two nan bread and a Sag Bhaji, spinach with garlic.

And it was the vegetable choice that made me realise why I was enjoying our night out.

For, when it arrived, the waiter revealed that because there were four of us he had asked for a large dish.

It was that personal touch that shone through. The staff at the Bengal Spices went out of their way to ensure that not only we but all the customers were having a great evening.

Attentive

Whether it was the large birthday party at the back of the restaurant, complete with birthday banner and, later on, a cake, or the couples, young and old, enjoying a quite night out, the busy staff were attentive without being obtrusive.

They were happy to bring me, the driver, iced water and allow us to share dishes.

They were also incredibly busy serving the many who called in to collect their takeaway meals, manning the bar and keeping restaurant customers happy.

The nice touch was when chef emerged from his kitchen to check that the dishes had gone down well. And we couldn't fault them!

We were so full we weren't able to try a dessert. Instead, again a nice touch, we were brought a segmented orange to cleanse our palates before a coffee.

The evening had passed all too quickly. We had thoroughly enjoyed our evening in the relaxed restaurant, eaten a meal which was not rushed and where, thank goodness, we had had our table for the entire night.

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Shropshire Gas and Vaillant are working together to support the local community

NEWS

New face in charge of market operation

A NEW community-run company has taken over a town's market hall in the hope of transforming its fortunes.

All Together Ellesmere has been formed to run the weekly market and other activities in Ellesmere Market Hall, which is currently operating at a loss.

On Monday the right to hold markets in Ellesmere was transferred from Shropshire Council to Ellesmere Town Council.

It means All Together Ellesmere has now taken on a lease with the unitary authority for the market hall, allowing them to run the markets on behalf of the town council.

The company has received a grant of £11,620 from Shropshire Council's Market Towns Revitalisation Programme to create a kitchen and store room in the market hall and to provide new promotional material. This work will be carried out between now and the end of May, and the market will also be decorated inside and out.

The Tuesday market will continue to be held while the redecoration takes place.

Lincoln McMullan, chairman of All Together Ellesmere, said: "We're really looking forward to taking on the market hall and to welcoming people to the building."

Couple casting off on new lakeside business venture

A NEW management team will take over the running of a restaurant and visitor centre at a Shropshire beauty spot.

Richard and Kate Taylor will take control of the Boathouse by the Mere in Ellesmere today (Thursday).

In February the couple's business, The Boathouse Ellesmere Ltd, was awarded the contract to run the venue for the next nine years, on behalf of its owners Shropshire Council and Ellesmere Town Council.

The Boathouse currently features a restaurant, shop and visitor centre, but the couple said they have plans to improve the services and facilities for customers and visitors.

They will introduce evening opening for the restaurant on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays during the summer, and on Fridays and Saturdays in the winter.

They will offer local musicians the chance to perform at the Boathouse and change the format of the current visitor centre to sell local produce and local arts and crafts.

The visitor centre will also include a cafe serving tea, coffee and cakes from 8am to 6pm, seven days a week, all-year-round.

The couple also want to work closely with Shropshire Council and Shropshire Wildlife Trust to promote the Mere and Ellesmere.

Mr and Mrs Taylor said: "We're really looking forward to the challenge of the Boathouse. "We are proud of what Ellesmere has to offer and we look forward to welcoming customers old and new."

Mark Blount, from Shropshire Council's outdoor recreation service, said: "We wish Kate and Richard every success as they take on the running of the Boathouse."

"We look forward to seeing the business go from strength to strength and playing an even greater role in promoting Ellesmere, the Mere Country Park and the surrounding area to visitors from near and far."

Mr and Mrs Taylor are already well-known to the local community and have strong connections to the Boathouse, the Mere and the town.

Guitarist May joins criticism

Legendary Queen guitarist Brian May has launched a scathing attack on Owen Paterson, just days after the Environment Secretary suffered online criticism from television presenter Bill Oddie.

In a 1,270 word article on the musician's website May accused the north Shropshire MP of not being 'the sharpest tool in the box' and slammed his stance on issues such as the badger cull, fox hunting and gay marriage.

And he said the Cabinet minister had ignored a petition signed by more than 100,000 people last autumn by vowing to proceed with the two pilot badger culls in Gloucestershire and Somerset this summer.

TV star Oddie took to Twitter on Friday arguing that British wildlife was 'not safe' while Mr Paterson was in the high-profile cabinet post.

And Mr Paterson hit back at the latest remarks, saying he was using 'evidence and fact' to proceed with the plans.

Easter treats are all lined up



STAFF from the Oswestry Visitor and Exhibition Centre are organising a range of activities for children over the Easter weekend, including an Easter egg hunt and children's art activities. Carol Roberts from the centre is seen getting ready for the weekend. Picture: Peter Flemmich.

Cyclists urged to get goods at jumble

A 'CYCLE jumble' will be held on Saturday at the Gate Pavilion in Oswestry.

The event had to be postponed last week because of the snow, but organisers say it will go ahead this weekend at the pavilion next to Woodside School from 10am until 1pm.

The jumble sale with a difference will see bicycle-related bits and pieces, big and small, go on sale.

Cycle enthusiasts from across the area are being urged to attend. One of the organisers, Tim Rutherford, said the cost of a table at the event was £2.

Mr Rutherford said that people would be able to buy and sell anything connected with cycling, from small accessories to a full bicycle.

"Anyone who is looking to move up to a different level of cycling but can't afford new can come along and see what there is on offer," he said.

"Or beginners who want to see if they enjoy cycling without having a large outlay. Anyone who wants to clear out their shed of cycling bits and pieces can have a table."

Mr Rutherford's own Cog Rides, Cycle Oswestry Gently, are held on the last Sunday of every month. The next one will leave the Wilfred Owen Green off Coney Green in Oswestry on Easter Sunday at 11am.

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A
PREMISES LICENCE**

Name of Applicant: Kulvir Singh & Jaswinderjit Kaur	Name and address of premises: Welshpool Fish Bar 11 Church Street Welshpool Powys SY21 7DP
Address of Licensing Authority: The Licensing Officer Powys County Council Neuadd Maldwyn, Severn Road, Welshpool, Powys SY21 7AS.	Representations about this application must be made in writing to the Licensing Authority at the address opposite by: 10/04/2013

Nature of Application
Opening Times of Premise Mon to Sat 11.30 to 23.00
Sunday 16.00 to 22.30
Supply of Alcohol Mon to Sat 11.30 to 23.00
Sunday 16.00 to 22.30

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JAMIE ASHTON - 5PM - 8PM

MARKETS

01691 668094

Welshpool livestock market**March 25**

OTMS (15)

Due to the terrible weather conditions only 15 Over Thirty Month Old Cattle forward sold to average 132ppkg overall. The older cows averaged 130ppkg, the younger cows averaged 154ppkg and the two young bulls averaged 138ppkg. A Limousin cow weighing 749kg sold to a top price of £1101.03 from W Pugh Parc Farm. DR & MC Hughes Lower Gwynypwll sold a Charolais cow weighing 688kg and making £1032.00. A younger Limousin cow sold for £1368.90 from W Pugh Parc Farm. W Pugh Parc Farm receives the Briarwood Products Ltd prize of £25 for the highest price older cow sold on the day. We will be holding a sale for TB Tested over thirty month cattle from Monday 8th April at 9am in ring 2. If you require any further information regarding this section please contact the market on 01938 553438 or the Auctioneer Glandon Lewis on 07774 224999.

FAT CATTLE (9)

Nine fat cattle sold to average 236ppkg for the steers and 238ppkg for the heifers. GW & BA Haynes Trefnant Isaf sold four heifers to 245ppkg, 243ppkg, 234ppkg and 231ppkg. Presented by D R Owen & Sons Sandilands where four steers which achieved 238ppkg, 236ppkg(x2), 234ppkg

and a heifer to 237ppkg. GW & BA Haynes Trefnant Isaf receives the Briarwood Products Ltd prize of £25 for the highest price per kilo animal sold on the day. Weekly Monday commence at approximately 12.30pm. More Fat Cattle urgently required to meet a very strong demand from potential purchasers. If you have require any advise or wish to sell fat cattle at the market please contact the auctioneer Mr Glandon Lewis on 07774 224999 or the market office on 01938 553438.

PRIME HOGGETS (4199)

An entry of 4199 Prime Hoggets, sold to an overall average of 193.7ppkg. Super Lights (17.5kg to 25.4kg) (22) to 130ppkg from N Jones Waun Farm. Average of 130ppkg. Lights (25.5kg to 32kg) (472) to 191ppkg from W K Davies Offa Way. Others to 186ppkg from A Brick Pains Castle. Average of 176ppkg.

Standards (32.1kg to 39kg) (820) to 242ppkg from H M Powell & Son White House. Others to 205ppkg from J & J Stafford Llais y Ael. Average of 183ppkg. Mediums (39.5kg to 45.5kg) (1651) to 229ppkg from J & J Beavan & Sons Winsbury. Others to 227ppkg from H M Powell & Son White House. Average of 201ppkg.

Heavies (45.1kg to 52kg) (779) to 213ppkg from J & J Beavan & Sons Winsbury. Others to

207ppkg from J Davies Green Farm. Average of 190ppkg.

Over Weights (Over 52kg) (359) to 203ppkg from R & R Jernan Ffridd Farm. Others to 187ppkg from H M Powell & Son White House. Average of 176ppkg.

SPRING LAMBS (37)
An entry of 37 Spring Lambs, sold to an overall average of 288ppkg.

Lights (25.5kg to 32kg) (6) to 290ppkg from G & J L Pritchard Penysarn. Average of 283ppkg.

Standards (32.1kg to 39kg) (24) to 311ppkg from G & J L Pritchard Penysarn. Others to 309ppkg from E W Jones Gesail y Bryn. Average of 291ppkg.

Mediums (39.5kg to 45.5kg) (5) to 281ppkg from E W Jones Gesail y Bryn. Average of 278ppkg.

Heavies (45.1kg to 52kg) (2) to 248ppkg from J & J Beavan & Sons Winsbury. Average of 248ppkg.

CULL EWE (938)

An entry of 938 cull sheep on offer for sale today, sold to average £56.54 for the ewes and £74.14 for the rams. Top price of the day for the ewes was £125 per head from P & CE Davies The Crest. Top price for the cull rams was £110 per head from RF & DJ Price Pentrenant. Weekly sale of cull sheep to immediately follow the sale of fat lambs at approximately 12noon.

STORE LAMBS

A small entry of store lambs. Theave lambs achieving 340 from TD &

EM Davies Neuadd Hendidley. Top lambs achieved £41 from J V Davies & Co Garth Fawr. A large entry of 186 cade lambs averaged £5.18. Top price of £18 was achieved by D R Owen & Sons Sandilands.

A small entry of ewes with lambs at foot. Welsh Full mouth and as found ewes with lambs at foot achieved £60 from D Roberts Trefi Fawr.

Sale of Store Lambs to commence at 10.30am with sale of In lamb Ewes, Couples and Cade Lambs Next Monday 1st April 2013.

DAIRY COWS

An entry of 6 Dairy cattle met with a slightly easier trade with less people around the ring due to the weather. Leading the way was Phil Jones Lane Farm at £1890 and £1540 for two Riverdane Sizzler daughters. Two Brown Swiss heifers from PW Pritchard & K A Loake Cefnhelin sold for £1740 and £1400. A 2nd calver from Mike Williams Wern Holdings sold at £1200. A breakdown of prices achieved where as follows: £1800 + 1 lot, £1600 - £1800 1 lot, £1400 - £1600 3 lots, less than £1400 1 lot.

FORTHCOMING SALES:

Monday 1st April, Sale of Cows and Calves
Monday 8th April, Sale of Dairy Cows & Easter Spring Lambs Show and Sale.

Tuesday 9th April, Sale of Organic, Weanlings & Store Cattle.

Monday 15th April, Sale of Cows and Calves.

Thursday 18th April, Sale of Pedigree Charolais Cattle.

Monday 22nd April, Sale of Dairy Cattle.

Monday 29th April, Sale of Cows and Calves.

Tuesday 30th April, April Store Cattle Fair.

Monday 6th May, Sale of Dairy Cows, Cows & Calves and Prize sale of Couples.

Monday 13th May, Cows and Calves.

Tuesday 14th May, Store Cattle.

Thursday 16th May, Sale of Pedigree Limousin, Simmental, Salers and Charolais Cattle.

Saturday 18th May, Machinery Sale at Coed y Dinas.

Monday 20th May, Cows and Calves and Dairy Cows.

Monday 27th May, Cows and Calves.

Tuesday 28th May, Store Cattle and Weanlings.

Oswestry cattle auctions**March 20**

FAT CATTLE: (57)
A small entry met a very fast trade for the quality on offer. Overall average of 197.5p/kg.

Young Bulls: Mainly Holstein friesians but two exceptional bulls from Messrs Edwards Tyn Twell making 238p & 237p/kg. Friesians up to 199p/kg from J E Evans & Sons Tedsmore.

Also rans to a minimum of 140p/kg.

Heifers: Averaged

208.5p/kg to a top of 254p/kg from W Hughes & Sons Llansantffraid, others to 245p/kg

Steers: To a top of 229p/kg from J M Edwards Lower Morton.

Top price Bull £1365 from H R Whittingham

Top price Heifer £1384 from W Hughes & Son

Top price Steer £1294 from J P Evans & Son

FAT HOGGETTS: (4094)

Superlights to 148p average 142p Lights to 187p average 163.5p, Standards to 235p average 187.5p, Mediums to 227p average 197p, Heavy's to 207p average 191p, Others to 188p average 174p. Overall average 191p.

FAT EWES: (625)
Ewes to £110.00 average £44.00, Rams to £85.00, average £52.00.

Please Note: All sheep entering the Market must be tagged.

CALVES: (61)

Similar numbers selling to another strong trade for continentals, good friesians keenly contested, poorer sorts less money. British Blue Bulls topping the sale at £432 for an outstanding calf from Messrs Bowen Glanwytyn £325 from Messrs Roberts Ty Issa. Limousin Bulls to £385 from Messrs Roberts Ty Issa £380 from Messrs Owen Bonciau £280 from Messrs Jones Ladyhill £270 from Messrs Jernan Coed-mawr. British Blue Heifers to £350 & £256 from Messrs Ellis Pentrewn £294 from Messrs Roberts Ty Issa. Limousin Heifers to £298 & £272

from Messrs Evans Hanton Farm £280 from Messrs Lloyd Roberts Pennant Farm £270 from Messrs Roberts Pentre David Aberdeen Angus Bulls to £242 from Messrs Ede Willow Farm £240 from Messrs Williams Crachdir Hereford Bulls to £230 & £214 Hereford Heifers to £184 & £176 from Messrs Edwards Tynymaes. Friesian Bulls to £140 from Messrs Lloyd Roberts Pennant Farm £83 from Messrs Williams The Stocks

STORE CATTLE: (126)
A mixed entry of cattle met with a faster trade with a total clearance reported. Top price of the day was

£1450 (228p/kg) paid for a Charolais x heifer aged 28 months sold by J Hamlett, Ruyton XI Towns.

57 steers averaged £949 (209p/kg) with notable prices including:

£1395 (258p/kg) paid for a pair for Limousin x steers aged 21 & 23 months sold by W Clark & Son, Woolston.

£1280 (256p/kg) and £1190 (248p/kg) paid for Charolais x steers aged 20-22 months sold by

M E Roberts, Nant-mawr.

£1345 (245p/kg) paid for a Charolais x steer aged 16 months sold by J Davies, Llanfihangel.

69 heifers averaged £930 (210p/kg) with notable prices including:

A superb entry of Charolais x heifers from J Hamlett, Ruyton XI Towns topped the heifer trade with prices including: £1385

(274p/kg), £1275 (252p/kg), £1350 (245p/kg) & £1300 (245p/kg).

£730 (228p/kg) paid for a pair of Limousin x heifers aged 17 months sold by G R Jones, Llanrhaeadr.

£900 (225p/kg) paid for a Limousin x heifer aged 22 months sold by M Gilchrist, Glyn Ceiriog.

Our next sale will be held on the 27th March with entries invited for the sale on the 10th April.

U72 & CULL COWS:

(53)

An excellent entry of 53 cattle were again very well sold. The trade for cull cows is as strong as ever and the mainly friesians

cows forward today returned another exceptional trade. Continental cattle were also in very heavy demand. Top price

Cow 155p/kg top price Steer 180p/kg. Stock Bull 174p/kg, overall £1336.90

Cows

Charolais to 128p average

127.48p/kg

Limousin to 155p average

143.46p/kg

Belgian Blue to 155p

average 149.48p/kg

Friesians to 139p average

128.42p/kg

Steers

Hereford to 180p

Stock Bulls

Charolais to 174p average

169.40p/kg

Limousin to 169p

53 Cattle average

128.83p/kg

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Motoring

'The legend' is back with a new look and a bright future

Drive time with Graham Breeze



SALES and market share records were smashed by SEAT in the UK last year and the return of 'the legend' Toledo with a completely new look means things should get even better in 2013.

The new, fourth-generation Toledo moves away from the MPV looks of its predecessor, which ceased production in 2009, and has reverted back to the blueprint of the 1992 original.

That means SEAT has produced a five-door 'fastback' with the appearance of a saloon but the versatility of a wide-opening hatchback with enormous boot space.

The new Toledo is built on an extended version of the Ibiza platform and bridges the gap between Ibiza and Leon in the SEAT model family.

It's a formula that proved so popular in SEAT's home country that the Spanish slogan for this latest Toledo is 'the legend returns.'

With 38,798 new SEAT cars registered in the UK, 2012 was the company's best ever year for sales, with market share rising to 1.9 per cent.

Those figures both eclipse 2011, itself a record breaking year, and continue the company's upward trajectory over the last five years; since 2008, SEAT has registered unbroken year-on-year sales increases.

In five-door layout the fourth generation



The new SEAT Toledo has a high boot line

Toledo has returned to the successful formula of the original car.

On test was the 1.2TSi 85PS with an on-the-road price of £14,120, a surprising top speed of 114mph and CO2 emissions of just 119g/km.

The car looked impressive on 16-inch alloy wheels which cost an extra £275 along with black door handles and wing mirrors.

Standard features include front electric windows; MP3 CD player; Electronic Stability Control (ESC); driver and front passenger airbag; passenger airbag disconnect; front side and curtain airbags; front seatbelt reminders and ISOFIX points.

Little wonder that the Toledo has achieved a five-star rating in the latest round of results



With the seats down there is a large load-carrying space

published today by the Euro New Car Assessment Programme (NCAP).

Also standard on the S are electric heated door mirrors; air conditioning; Bluetooth with voice control; USB port; remote audio controls; six speakers; trip computer; split folding rear seats; height-adjustable driver's seat; space saver spare wheel; alarm and remote central locking.

If room is what you need then look no further. In the cabin there's seating for four adults in comfort but it's the massive 550-litre boot which really catches the eye - easily passing the golf club test with flying colours.

Most drivers will be able to find a comfortable seating position thanks to the a range of adjust-

ments but rear visibility is affected by the high boot lid - a small price to pay though for all that space.

But the Toledo handles nowhere near as well as the Leon. The ride is firm and there are probably better equipped alternatives in the sector.

Price will play a big part in many purchase decisions and the entry-level Toledo undercuts many superminis at £12,495 and the whole range fits in at the more affordable end of the small family car class, particularly when getting an average of 55.4mpg.

I liked the original Toledo and was surprised when SEAT chose to phase it out. This car won't be everyone's choice but it will ensure SEAT continue to grow their UK market share.



The new Toledo certainly looks the part

Bumper to bumper

SEAT TOLEDO S

Model: 1.2 TSi 85 PS

Price: £14,120

Top speed: 114mph

0-62mph: 11.8secs

Combined fuel: 55.4mpg

CO2 emissions: 119g/km

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2007 57 AUDI RS4 SALOON 6 speed, Silver Metallic, Graphite alloy wheels, full leather, sat nav, fully loaded, must be seen, 52,000 miles, FSH.....£24,499	2010 60 RENAULT MEGANE T SPORT CUP 250bhp COUPE Metallic Racing Blue, 1 owner, 17,000 miles, graphite wheels.....£14,999
2010 10 AUDI A4 2.0 TDI AVANTE SE 143BHP 6 speed Manual. Metallic Silver, 64,000 miles, one owner, FSH.....£13,999	2009 59 RENAULT CLIO 16v EXPRESSION 5-door. Metallic Silver, 25,000 miles.....£6,499
2006 06 AUDI A6 2.0 TDI S-LINE SALOON 6 speed, manual, Metallic Silver, Half leather, Sat Nav, 63,000 miles, FSH.....£9,999	2007 57 RENAULT KANGOO 1.2 AUTHENTIQUE Wheelchair access vehicle, Metallic Blue, only 28,000 miles, 1 owner..... SOLD
2009 59 AUDI A3 2.0 TDI SPORTBACK 6-speed, Manual, Bright Red, 1 owner, 48,000 miles, Bluetooth, FSH.....£12,999	2002 02 RENAULT SCENIC Automatic. Metallic Red, 66,000 miles..... SOLD
2007 07 AUDI Q7 3.0 TDI QUATTRO S-LINE Automatic. Metallic Black, 55,000 miles, FSH..... DUE IN	2009 59 SEAT IBIZA 1.6 SPORT 5-door. Metallic Grey, 24,000 miles, FSH.....£6,999
2007 57 AUDI A3 1.6 S-Line, Manual, Bright Blue Metallic, Full Leather Interior, Only 33,000 Miles.....£10,999	2009 09 SKODA FABIA 2 1.4 Estate. Blue Metallic, one owner, only 15,000 miles from new.....£7,499
2011 11 BMW 116 d M-Sport, 5-door, White, Manual, 18,000 miles, £30 a year tax + duty.....£15,499	2005 05 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.8 CONVERTIBLE BERTONE LTD EDT Metallic Silver, 66,000 miles.....£4,250
2009 59 BMW 320d SE Coupe Auto. Platinum Bronze Metallic, one owner, 56,000 miles, FSH REDUCED£12,499	2009 59 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.8 SRi 3-door. Automatic, Metallic Black, 1 owner, 12,000 miles.....£7,499
2007 57 BMW 120d SE Coupe 6 speed Manual. Metallic Grey, 50,000 miles, FSH.....£11,999	2004 04 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 LIFE 5-door, Bright Blue Metallic, 54,000 miles.....£2,999
2011 11 BMW 320d SE 6 speed Manual 184BHP. Metallic Red, 14,000 miles, one owner, FSH.....£18,499	2012 12 VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.7 CDTi EXCLUSIVE 5-door, Manual, Metallic Silver, 15,000 miles, 1 owner, FSH £9,999
2009 59 CITROEN C3 1.4 HDi AIRDREAM 5-door. Metallic Silver, 30 a year Road Tax, 1 owner.....£6,999	2003 03 VAUXHALL VECTRA 2.0 DTi SALOON Manual. Metallic Grey, 84,000 miles.....£2,999
2003 03 CITROEN XSARA PICASSO 1.6 DESIRE 86,000 miles, 12 months MOT..... SOLD	2008 08 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.9 CDTi 150bhp DESIGN Blue Metallic, 59,000 miles, privacy glass, sat nav, FSH.....£7,699
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Motoring



Ford claims its Focus ST is the class best-seller, ahead of the Volkswagen Golf GTi and Renaultsport Megane

Research shows Focus ST is the best seller in its class

Ford's Focus ST hot hatchback has become the best-selling car in its class, according to research reported by the firm.

It cites research by automotive data analysis company Polk, which says the 1,984 hot Focus sales between October

and December last year gave it 44 per cent of the market, ahead of the Golf GTi on 33 per cent and the Renaultsport Megane on 12 per cent.

Among the European countries whose hot hatch sales charts the Focus topped were the UK, Denmark, Norway, Finland, Hungary, Switzerland, Sweden and the Netherlands.

Ford has sold a total of 3,819 new

Focus STs in Europe since its summer 2012 launch, with a split of 74 per cent hatchbacks and 26 per cent estates.

The most popular colour has been Frozen White at 41 per cent, followed by Panther Black with 28 per cent and Tangerine Scream, which although a costly option has secured 17 per cent of customers' vote.

Grant congratulated for his perfect scores

Long-serving Grant Dods-worth has achieved a rare feat in the motor trade. The sales executive at Arthurs of Oswestry has been congratulated by Vauxhall on his hat-trick of perfect mystery shopper scores.

Grant, who has been with Arthurs Vauxhall for more than seven years, has been praised by Mike Oliver, Vauxhall's area manager, on achieving what he described as a 'rare feat.'

He said: "This performance certainly highlights Grant's true professionalism."

Improve

Vauxhall use mystery shoppers to improve the buying experience of new car purchasers. The mystery shops are outsourced in order to achieve total independence and impartiality.

Nigel Williams, Grant's 'boss' at Arthurs of Oswestry, said: "The mys-



Grant Dods-worth from Arthurs, who has achieved a rare feat

tery shops involve completely unannounced visits to Vauxhall dealer showrooms. They can happen without warning at any time.

"They are designed to ensure customers are treated professionally and warmly rather than receiving a 'hard sell' which is prevalent at some car dealers."

Grant said how pleased he was to have his professionalism endorsed by Vauxhall themselves. He added that he had worked very hard at improving his skills over the past 12 months.

"It is good to see this coming to fruition," added Grant who last year sold 237 cars and has set his sights on improving sales to over 250 in 2013.

Dealer demo is up for sale

Award-winning Vauxhall dealer Arthurs of Oswestry and Newtown has recently put up for sale for its Ampera Electron demonstrator after having it on the fleet for four months.

General manager Steve Hughes said they were intending to keep the Ampera on the fleet on a continuous basis.

"However, 'after giving this further thought we decided to sell our demonstrator, said Steve.

"This particular car is quite rare because it is the top of the range model and is in a tri-colour paint called lithium white. The car looks stunning.

"It is rare to find one of these on the used-car market and it is quite likely we will receive inquiries from a wide area."

Anyone interested can contact Steve Hughes on 01686 625422.

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VAUXHALL

New sporting Megane is a smooth operator

By John Griffiths

In my younger days (not all that long ago) hot hatchbacks were a lot of fun: until the effects of excessive noise and rock-hard suspension set in.

So it was good to see that Renault's latest – and fastest yet – road rocket is also refined and well-mannered.

The new Megane Renaultsport 265 gets its name from the impressive number of horsepower it squeezes out of a two-litre, turbocharged engine. Its 0-60mph time is down to six seconds, but perhaps a better testament to its real-world performance, through bends as well as along straights, is its record-breaking time for front-wheel drive production cars set at the tough Nurburgring.

Easier

It's easier to use performance, too, because it doesn't suffer from the phenomenon which has bedevilled earlier generations of high-powered front wheel drive cars – torque steer.

The Renaultsport's 265 has also had its exhaust tuned so that in cruise mode it's as quiet as an upmarket saloon. But put your foot down and there's a pleasing growl to match the surge of acceleration. After all, driving a sporty car without the right soundtrack is like eating a bacon sandwich without brown sauce – but you don't want it all the time.

The 265 also has a hi-tech suspension system



Inside, the Megane 265 with its superb, sporty seats exudes quality

which combines all that's necessary for stable, virtually roll-free cornering without the hard ride long associated with sporting cars.

The extra power is partly down to a higher turbo pressure, so you don't need a heavy right foot to ride a smooth and progressive wave of power. Maximum torque is an impressive 360Nm, but 80 per cent of that is available at 1,900rpm so pick-up is rapid in almost any gear and conditions.

The six-speed box and the gear ratios were re-engineered for these two models, to give a slicker, sportier feel.

It comes in two versions. The £25,245 Cup is the more track focused of the two and includes a limited slip differential. The £26,445 Renaultsport 265 is more luxuriously equipped and comes with the standard sport chassis, striking a balance between dynamic performance and

everyday comfort, and with a few more luxury touches.

While the new car has an extra 15bhp over its predecessor, it's also more economical and cleaner. Fuel consumption increases from 34.4 to 37.7mpg and CO2 emissions are down from 190 to 174g/km.

The power steering has been recalibrated for more precision. Braking performance is impressive, too, with 340mm vented front discs and four-pot Brembo calipers and a bigger servo.

The 265 looks the part, too. Low, sleek and aggressive, Renault has added a new F1-style aerodynamic splitter and LED daytime running lights at the front, and there is also a choice of new 18in alloy wheels.

Inside, the 265 is a full family-sized five-seater with superb sports seats for driver and front passenger to hold you softly but firmly through the



The new Renaultsport Megane 265 combines performance and refinement

twisty bits: leather is standard on the 265. Not at all sure about the bright yellow seatbelts in the test car, though.

The driver's seat and steering wheel are multi-adjustable and the interior exudes quality.

On the safety front, the Renaultsport 265 scored maximum points in the independent EuroNCAP crash test programme.

The flagship model has carbon-grey leather seats (heated in front), climate control air conditioning, extra tinted glass in the side and rear windows, hands-free keycard entry and a tyre pressure monitor.

That's on top of the standard kit list for the Cup version, which includes eight airbags, ABS with brakeforce distribution and dynamic management systems, air conditioning, trip computer, split/fold rear seats, cruise control and speed limiter, rear parking sensors.

Oh, and of course, that vital sport touch – drilled aluminium pedals.

Bumper to bumper

MEGANE RENAULTSPORT 265

Engine: Four-cylinder, two-litre turbocharged petrol with 265bhp and 360Nm of torque driving the front wheels through a six-speed manual gearbox.

Performance: 0-60mph in 6 secs, top speed 158mph.

Economy: Average 37.7mpg; CO2 174g/km.

Insurance: groups 1-50; 36E

Warranty: Four years/100,000 miles including four years routine servicing.

Price: £26,445 (Cup version £25,245).

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Motoring

Modern marqueses a driving force

By Sharon Walters

I was never a fan of the outgoing Hyundai GT. While it looked awesome, it disappointed and in almost every other area it was a let-down.

So when the new Veloster was announced I was hoping that lessons had been learned and a new enthusiasm for Hyundai's sports cars would be ignited.

Well at first glance, I think they've got it spot on. The styling is unusual – I can't think of any other car that looks like the Veloster.

It is futuristic with very sweeping lines proportioned to look larger than it is with three doors as it is a hatchback.

A large panoramic sunroof dominates the top of the car, and while not a new concept, it looks stunning on the Veloster. Personally my favourite view is from the back as it combines some clever styling with a rear diffuser.

Perfectly

Internally the Veloster delivers as well. The Sport model I was testing had optional red leather front seats and side panels which complemented the rest of the interior perfectly.

The sport bucket seats hold you in firmly with support just where you need it. The dashboard, while sharing features with other cars in the Hyundai range, has a sporty feel and provides information instantly.

The test car was also fitted with the Media Pack which is an option on the Sport. It provides touch screen satellite navigation, eight speakers with a sub-woofer and an amplifier to power the whole thing, and they throw in a reversing camera. At £1,100 for this option it appears quite pricey, but I think it compares favourably to other makes and all of it worked very well.

The Veloster is fitted with a 1.6litre petrol



The Veloster has sweeping lines which make it look bigger

engine developing about 140 bhp. Not a staggering amount, but the six-speed manual gearbox does allow for respectable acceleration.

That said, you do need to explore the upper reaches of the rev range to get the best from it. The gearbox is smooth and easy to use but there is also the option of a dual clutch transmission if you really need one.

I managed to squeeze more than 47 miles per gallon so it need not be an expensive exercise feeding the Veloster.

Yet again Hyundai has been hard at work on the suspension front. What you lose in absolute horsepower can be quickly regained on the twisty sections of our roads and the Veloster is an absolute blast to drive in these circumstances with plenty of feel through the steering to let you know what's going on and suspension that allows you to explore the chassis limitations without any dramas.

But is there such a thing as a free lunch? Well the Veloster comes pretty close.

The usual Hyundai five-year warranty is ever present and provides great peace of mind and

is such a feature of the marque that it almost gets overlooked when it does really need to be stressed.

With dramatic styling, sensible fuel economy and running costs, it is pretty difficult to really fault the overall package. Prices start at £17,995.

The i30 hatchback has been with us for some time and has proved to be a popular addition to the Hyundai range. Now it has been joined by the Tourer which is, in effect, a new estate version of the i30. However, don't think this means that nothing has changed, far from it.

The bodywork is extended and provides massive boot space which swallowed up my luggage with consummate ease. I do not think there would be any problem getting all the family's luggage in the back with room to spare. However this extra length, 185mm over the hatchback, does not suddenly mean that the Tourer becomes a car park drama.

It was easy to manoeuvre and felt little different from the hatchback. Going back to the boot it is also possible to lower the back seats to gain even more space which means a trip to the DIY



The Media Pack is an option

store will not be a problem. Oh, and if this is not enough, there are also underfloor storage compartments as well.

Internally, you are treated to comfortable seats and a dashboard layout that is easy to comprehend and makes for an easy car to drive long distance, something that is essential if you want to get the most of the Tourer.

The suspension also complements the Tourer's aspirations perfectly. It provides a balance between firmness and compliance which means it soaks up the bumps well but lacks the softness that can make a journey tiring as you struggle to keep the car pointed to where you want to go. The steering is also light with great feel which does inspire confidence.

The engine fitted to the test car was Hyundai's 1.6 CRDi diesel engine that also has intelligent Stop Start fitted as standard. This works very well and unlike some systems I have tested, is very efficient and does not interfere with your driving in traffic. However, with all these features, one of the things that impressed me was the fuel consumption.



The i30 is a popular car in the Hyundai range

I have read on many occasions wild claims made by motor manufacturers that frankly are only obtainable in a wind tunnel with a robot driving. Not so in the Tourer. Hyundai claim 67.3 mpg and I can say that they have probably understated this as I achieved slightly better fuel consumption. What this means is that distance driving is not only comfortable but also affordable as well.

The Tourer, therefore, ticks a number of important boxes.

Firstly it is comfortable, especially for long distance driving. The storage levels are such that it will take almost anything you can think of with ease. The fuel consumption makes this a practical proposition from a cost perspective and with the Hyundai five-year warranty and prices starting from £16,195 OTR you can't go far wrong.

Oh, and if all this wasn't enough to convince you, the i30 Tourer has also been awarded the maximum five star safety rating from Euro NCAP, the independent vehicle assessment organisation. It looks more and more like a bargain.

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SPORT

How the teams of yesteryear looked



This picture of Llanymynech FC in the 1945/46 season was loaned to The Chronicle by Mr Cecil Morgan of Brookhouse Road, Oswestry, whose father Norman Morgan is included in the picture. Other names he has been able to identify include: N. Garside, A. Evans, G. Lane, George Davies, A. Lewis, L. Hewitt, Gordon Rogers and Frank Mudd.



Oswestry Town footballers and officials, season 1971/72, front row, from left: Terry Onions, George Phillips (trainer), Ian Hughes, Geoff Lloyd, Roger Jones, Brian Woodall, Len Warby, John Wilson. Back row, from left: Steve Mackreth, Graham Bird, Frank Peters, Ray Jones, Bob Davies, Derek Williams, Dave Lambert, Micky Porter, and Freddie Morris (manager).

Work to start for summer season

DOMINOES						
	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Red Castle .....	.21	15	6	103	86	30
Wern Cricket Club ..	.21	15	6	99	90	30
Dickins Arms .....	.21	11	10	102	87	22
Stanton Arms .....	.21	11	10	97	92	22
Wern Utd Services ..	.21	11	10	96	93	22
Prees Club .....	.21	11	10	93	96	22
Wern S & S .....	.21	10	11	101	88	20
Fox Inn .....	.20	10	11	91	98	20
Elephant & Castle ..	.20	10	10	90	90	20
Castle Hotel .....	.21	8	13	85	104	16
Hole In The Wall ....	.20	7	13	87	93	14
Hawkestone Arms ..	.21	6	15	81	108	12

Guils are happy as matches flood in

Monday, April 1
Huws Gray Cymru Alliance
 (2.30): Llanrhaeadr v Rhayader Town.
Spar Mid Wales League Division One (2.30pm): Aberaeron v Bow Street (ko 5.45pm), Builth Wells v Llanidloes, Dyffryn Banw v Montgomery, Four Crosses v Llansantffraid Village, Tywyn v Bryncrug v Newbridge, Waterloo v Welshpool.
Division Two: Abermule v Machynlleth, Knighton v Llanfair Utd, Presteigne v Llanfyllin.

SPORT

Rangers keep up good run with win

ANOTHER superb performance saw lowly Ellesmere Rangers maintain their revival with a 2-0 success at Heather St John – their fifth win of the season in the Midland Football Alliance.

Rangers broke the deadlock on 14 minutes when Steve O'Reilly fired home from the penalty spot, after his brother James was judged to have been fouled in the HSJ goalmouth by Jake Morale.

Following this, Rangers soaked up the pressure with Ryan Nash who always looked dangerous creating two good chances to level.

Both of them were 20 yards strikes on 25, and 43 minutes but Dave Maguire enjoyed another good game and gave a solid performance in goal.

Brilliant

The visitors had their chances to build on the lead. On the half hour, a Connor Courtney corner found Marcus Sharrod but he headed just short of the target.

And just prior to the break Jamie Haynes was denied by HSJ keeper Peter Maguire who tipped over the bar.

Maguire was brilliant second half every Heather attack was quickly closed down.

On 62 minutes, when Shane Gibbs got the better of James O'Reilly to make a deep run towards goal. Maguire pulled off a breath taking one handed save.

With two minutes to spare, Rangers killed the game when Courtney Connor found the net from close range in a melee following a corner.

Both Morda teams see games hit by weather

LIKE most clubs in the area, Morda United had their Mercian Regional League matches wiped out by last weekend's snow.

The reserve team's home league fixture against fellow strugglers Shawbury United reserves in division one was an early victim of the weather with the Weston Road pitch under over 30 centimetres of snow.

However, it took until Saturday morning for the first team's premier division cup quarter final tie at AFC Ludlow to be postponed.

If the icy weather relents this week, Morda supporters will be able to see both teams in action next Saturday.

Craig Rogers' side, currently top of the premier division after a fine run of away wins, are due to make their first appearance at Weston Road since December 1 when they entertain fourth in the table Telford Juniors (3pm).

Matt Barber's reserves make the short journey to The Venue where they face promotion chasing Oswestry Lions as they chase much needed points in the first division with a 5.30pm kick off.

Test for Saints

LYING fourth from bottom in the West Midlands League division one, St Martins face a tall order on Saturday as they bid to halt their losing streak when they head to high flying Bilston.

Breese and Sparks in hot-shot battle

FORMER Welshpool Town striker Jamie Breese continues to prove a hot shot this season in the Spar Mid Wales League.

The forward, now with title chasing Llanidloes Town, was the league's leading marksman in division one last term, and is going well this season with 22 league goals as he bids to defend his crown.

He is joint top scorer with Aberystwyth University's Tom Sparks, who has 21 league and one cup goal for a 22 goal tally. His haul was boosted with a seven goal blitz against struggling Dolgellau.

Tom Goodwin, who joined Llani this season from Llandrindod Wells, has also been

a regular marksman with 20 goals (18 league and two cup), while Jack Harris (Four Crosses) is not far behind with 19 goals (15 league and four cup).

Another Llani player to have an eye for goal is Karl Seliearts, with 18 league goals, one behind Bow Street's Mattie Davies on 19.

Llansantffraid Village are not having the best of seasons, but youngster Iwan Matthews has impressed in front of goal with 16 league goals. Other scorers are Ben Holt, Tywyn, (15 league goals); Sam Williams, Bwlth Wells, 14 (13 league, one cup); Rhyddian Morris, Montgomery, 12

(11/1), Charlie Proctor, Waterloo Rovers, 12 (11/1), Christian Webster, Berriew, 10; Mark Edmonson, Tywyn, 9; Tom Lapworth, Carno, 9; James Langford, Welshpool, 8; Jackson Hassanyeh, Berriew, 8 (7/1); Wayne Austin, Llansantffraid Village, 9; Steve Hole, Waterloo, 8 (6/2), Gareth Mansell, Llanidloes 8 (7/1).

Netted

High flying Llanfair United provide two players in the top three of the leading scorers in the Spar Mid Wales League division two.

While Knighton forward Connor Bird is

flying high with 25 goals (21 league, four in cup), in hot pursuit is Llanfair's Chris Gethin who has netted 24 times (20 league and four cup), while team-mate Geraint Jones has scored 16 goals (15 league and one in cup). Elsewhere, Llanfyllin's Cody Smart is on 16, with 15 goals in the league and one in the cup.

Llanfair's Paul Griffiths has netted 11 goals, while David Anthony (Abermule) has nine goals to his name.

Kerry's Matt Mumford has netted on eight occasions (six league and two in cup) and Tamar Law, of Llanfyllin, also has eight (seven in league and one in cup).

Welshpool hit eight as revival continues

WELSHPOOL Town continued their revival in the Spar Mid Wales League division one with an 8-0 hammering of struggling Newbridge at Maesdyd to make it four wins out of five.

"I expected us to win, but not by that much," said delighted boss Dave Jones.

"They were poor, but having said that we played well and were four up after half an hour.

"In the end it could have been a lot more. This time last year it was us who were being given these sort of hammerings, but now it is the other way round."

Pool scored four goals in each half, and never looked back after Tom Reynolds headed the opening from a corner.

Craig Sweatman then doubled the lead, before Sam Adams and Kotonge Nkonde made it 4-0 at the interval.

The second half continued in similar vein, with Adams netting twice more to complete his hat-trick while Jack Williams and Nkonde, with his second goal of the match also found the net in a one-sided affair.

Like the rest of the football programme in the region, the whole of the Spar Mid Wales League fixture list last Saturday was wiped out due to rain and snow.

Not a ball was kicked in the JT Hughes Montgomeryshire League, which was a similar story in the Cymru Alliance.

League table

Stonehouse Brewery Oswestry & District Dominions League

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Top White Lion	24	12	5	86	58	31
Black Lion A	23	14	6	82	56	31
White Lion	23	11	4	87	51	30
Black Lion B	23	12	5	79	59	30
Bell Oswestry	23	10	4	79	59	29
Cross Keys	23	8	7	77	61	28
Plas Yn Dinas	23	10	7	73	65	26
Station	23	7	5	74	64	25
Horsehoe	23	10	9	71	67	24
Perrybont Inn	23	6	9	66	72	20
Railway Inn	24	6	11	63	81	19
Black Horse	23	4	12	52	89	15
Royal Hill	23	1	19	32	106	5
Cross Keys 3, White Lion Llynchys 3, Station 3, Black Lion B 3, B Lion A 5, Top White Lion 1, B Horse 1, Bell 5, Royal Hill 1, Plas Yn Dinas 5, Perrybont Inn 2, Railway 4.						

Wilde leads the way as TNS are too strong for Steelmen

Port Talbot 0 The New Saints 3

RUNAWAY leaders The New Saints stand on the brink of retaining the Welsh Premier crown after extending their unbeaten league run to 11 games with victory at the GenQuip Stadium

The solid win lifted the defending champions 16 points clear at the top, and knowing that victory over jinx club Carmarthen Town at Park Hall on Saturday would guarantee their seventh championship crown.

After successfully navigating the icy conditions to south Wales, the Saints warmed to the challenge right from the off with Chris Jones firing an early effort wide.

And the visitors made the perfect start when in-form striker Mike Wilde headed home

his 19th league goal of the campaign in the 12th minute from Simon Spender's ball into the box.

They almost added a second moments later as Alex Darlington's terrific pass released Spender, but the right back's shot was well saved by Steven Hall in the Port Talbot goal.

The Saints continued to threaten, with Aeron Edwards going close after Ryan Fraughan whipped in a corner, but the Steelmen sounded a warning at the other end when Carl Payne struck the upright for a corner.

However, the Oswestry men put themselves firmly in the driving seat on the half hour when Fraughan's superb through ball cut open the home defence, and Edwards neatly chipped over keeper Hall to double the margin.

They nearly had a third before the break, with Scott Ruscoe nodding down to Darlington who went close to lobbing the keeper from the edge of the box, while Darlington almost found the net from close range after Chris Jones had whipped in a curling free kick.

After the break, the Steelmen took the game to TNS, but the visitors looked relatively comfortable despite the home side's efforts.

The visitors rang the changes with front men Matty Williams and Jamie Mullan appearing for Edwards and Fraughan (who had just been booked) respectively.

Football camps for youngsters

LLANSANTFFRAID Village Academy are running two football camps for primary school children during the Easter holiday.

The first will be held at Llansantffraid's ground at Treflan on Tuesday, April 2, and the second takes place at Llanfyllin Town FC on Friday, April 12.

Both of the camps are running from 10am-3pm, costing £15 each.

Fully qualified CRB checked coaches will run the courses which include passing and control skills, dribbling, SAQ (speed, agility, quickness) work and games.

Application form

The camps are open to boys and girls in schools years one to seven and those attending must remember to bring football boots, shinpads, water, packed lunch, and sun cream if the weather improves.

All profits go to Llansantffraid Village Academy. Those attending must fill in application form.

For further details contact Mike Digwood on 07969 795529 or mikedigwood@gmail.com

FOOTBALL
by John
Bridgwater

Ryan Fraughan whose superb pass set up Steven Hall for The New Saints second goal

Port Talbot continued to push forward as they battled to find a way back into the game, but the Saints held firm, while they also had opportunities to give themselves more breathing space.

Darlington almost added a third when crashing his volley just wide from the edge of the box, while Wilde's strike also flew past the post after latching onto Darlington's cross.

But the points were in the bag two minutes from time when substitute Mullan bagged his first goal in Saints colours when skipping past the keeper before slotting into an empty net.

Wilde almost capped superb display from TNS with a fourth courtesy of a brilliant curling effort, while Darlington again went close to opening his account but his shot flew just past the upright.

With the game up, and the Saints blow having the title tantalisingly in their grasp, the Steelmen's frustration became evident when Lee Surman was red-carded in injury time.

Postponed

TNS's win means Airbus UK – whose clash at Carmarthen was postponed – must now win their remaining six remaining games to keep the title race alive, while hoping that the league leaders suffer a remarkable collapse.

However, their realistic aim is to finish in runners-up spot and guarantee their ticket for European football this summer.

The Saints' unbeaten 11-match run in the league has seen them seize the title initiative since the mid season split, with their sequence including nine wins and two draws, while they have 31 goals and conceded just six.



In-form striker Mike Wilde who opened the scoring in the win over the Steelmen

Striker is closing in on Welsh Premier golden boot award

HOT-SHOT Mike Wilde again showed his worth for The New Saints with another goal against Port Talbot - and now has his sights on netting the Welsh Premier's golden boot.

The powerful forward headed home bravely from Simon Spender's cross to give the Saints a 12th minute lead, an advantage they never looked likely to relinquish in their 3-0 win at the Gen Quip Stadium.

The former Chester City man, in his second spell with TNS, has now scored 18 league goals and one in the league cup, and is just one off the league's top scorer, Bangor City's Chris Simm.

"Mike Wilde has been terrific for us this season, he gives us a platform to play off and also scores his fair share of goals," said head coach Carl Darlington.

"The goal he scored against Port Talbot sums him up, he showed a lot of bravery to put his head where many players wouldn't, and got his reward."

"He really puts his body on the line for the team, and he has five games left to get the league's golden boot which he richly deserves as he has been exceptional for us this season."

Darlington admitted the Saints had not been at their best despite last Sunday's win that took them a step closer to the league title, but

By John
Bridgwater

was satisfied with another solid display.

"It was not a great game, we were okay, but the main thing was that we came away with the win," he said.

Victory put the Saints firmly on course for a domestic double again this season, and director of football Craig Harrison felt his side could have been challenging for a treble.

TNS lost on penalties in the final of the league cup against Carmarthen last January, after having a winning goal controversially ruled out for a shove in the box. "I would be over the moon to win the double, but I would still be thinking it could have been a treble," he said.

Harrison also reserved special praise for his captain, keeper Paul Harrison, adding: "For me Paul is the best goalkeeper in the league. His concentration levels and his experience are fantastic."

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School lands
top titles
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New name and
kit for team
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COBRA in no mood to give up the chase

COBRA endured another weekend without any action due to the wintry weather – but are determined that their promotion quest in rugby's North Wales League division two (north) will not be left out in the cold.

Lying second in the table, the Meifod men were looking to maintain their push for first division rugby next term in last Saturday's trip to strugglers Colwyn Bay.

But the recent snowy spell put paid to the encounter, leaving COBRA five points behind leaders Denbigh whose encounter at Llanidloes also fell victim.

Having not played since beating Abergelge 14-10 on March 2, the Llanfair Caereinion side will be desperate to beat the weather and get back on the pitch at home to lowly Llanidloes this weekend as they bid to remain on track for promotion.

Although within touching distance of pacesetters Denbigh, hopes of snatching top spot look remote as their title rivals have a game in hand.

With four games remaining, COBRA's main priority now is to secure runners-up spot, which they should achieve as they are 16 points clear in second place, although main rivals Llanidloes have played three games fewer.

"We've only got four league games left, so we're not in desperate straits, unlike some teams who have got a lot more games to fit in," said club spokesman James Watkin.

"The important thing is we make sure of second place. Llanidloes have three games in hand, and if they were to win them, you would say promotion is wide open, but it's going to be very difficult for them to turn these games into points at this stage of the season."

COBRA have quickly moved to rearrange their clash at Colwyn Bay for Saturday, April 27, while their North Wales Plate semi-final at Rhyl is scheduled for Saturday, April 13. Early indications suggest the final will not be played until Saturday, 18 May.

Cricket club nets destroyed by snow

OSWESTRY cricket club's preparations for the new season have been hit by the freezing weather – with all their nets destroyed.

With the Morda Road club's first game due on Saturday, April 13, away to Birmingham League premier division side Wombourne in the Graham Williamson Trophy, players and officials have been literally left out in the cold.

With eight inches of snow still lying on the ground, the club's three bay nets have

all collapsed due to the weight of the snow, and the portable net has also been damaged.

It means the Birmingham League club have been unable to practise outside, so the winter indoor net sessions, are likely to be extended.

"This time last year I was in shirt sleeves and wishing the season could have started then, and now this year I've never seen so much snow on the ground," said club captain Mike Robinson.



Snow-go at Morda . . . The Arctic blast leaves the Weston Road pitch under snow last weekend

Morda home at last

HIGH-flying Morda United return home for their first time in almost four months on Saturday as they look to maintain their title push in the Mercian Regional League premier division against Telford Juniors.

The title chasers' last action at Weston Road was back on December 1, when losing to Haughmond in the Shropshire Challenge Cup.

Since then they have been on the road for seven games, winning the last six to move top of the table by two points.

Boss Craig Rogers and his team will be delighted to be back on home surrounds this weekend, but expect a stern test against a Telford side who are lying in fourth spot.

Snow was covering the Weston Road pitch this week – so the club will be desperate for improved conditions in time for a return to league duty. With six games to play, Morda

are well placed to win the league, even more so as their 3-1 defeat to title rivals AFC Ludlow must now be replayed as the south Shropshire side fielded a player without international clearance.

The two sides should also have met in the league cup quarter-final last weekend, but the clash was called off due to the snow.

Morda reserves, battling to steer clear of the lower reaches of the first division table, are due to return to action at promotion chasing OSWESTRY LIONS on Saturday (5.30).

Their home league fixture against fellow strugglers Shawbury reserves was an early victim of the weather last week. Elsewhere, OSWESTRY BOYS CLUB's home clash with Wroxeter was hit by the icy weather. This Saturday, they are due to visit Meole Brace.

Teams are preparing for a busy weekend

WEATHER permitting, it promises to be a busy Easter weekend in the Spar Mid Wales League with teams playing twice in three days.

Among those are Waterloo Rovers who, after visiting first division leaders Builth Wells on Saturday, face a home derby with near neighbours Welshpool Town on Monday.

Welshpool have climbed clear of the relegation pack into 12th spot with their 8-0 hammering of Newbridge, their fourth win in five outings, and have just four games remaining.

Waterloo, however, have 10 league games left, and have chance of a top three finish should results go in their favour.

Montgomery have no fewer than 14 league games remaining as they brace themselves for a rush of games in the next two months.

Just halfway through the season in terms of games, they head to Bow Street on Saturday and lowly Dyffryn Banw on Monday.

Llansantffraid Village, who are 11th in the table, have nine games to go, which they hope to reduce with Saturday's trip to relegation doomed Dolgellau followed, two days later, by a visit to Four Crosses who themselves open their Easter weekend with a home clash against Aberaeron.

Welshpool go joint top

THE title dream is still on for Welshpool Ladies who moved joint top of the North Wales Womens Hockey League division one after recording their seventh straight win with a 3-0 victory over Llanfair Caereinion.

Pool took a half time lead when Cerys Bills' shot was deflected into the net, by Sonja Evans, and Caroline Jones doubled the advantage after the break. Pool wrapped up the points when Jones scored her second of the game.

OSWESTRY Ladies, already assured of the Cheshire Womens League division three title, had no game as their clash at Alderley Edge was postponed.

TNS HAVE SCORE TO SETTLE IN TITLE RACE

THE New Saints have a score to settle as they look to clinch the Welsh Premier crown for a second season running in Saturday's televised clash with Carmarthen Town at Park Hall (2.30).

Carmarthen were the last side to win at the Oswestry venue when running out surprising 3-0 victors back on November 24, while they also defeated the Saints on penalties in the final of the League Cup earlier this year.

So TNS head coach Carl Darlington admits there would be no better way to retain the title than by sinking a side who have proved something of a jinx this season.

However, the title could already be done and dusted come Saturday should nearest challengers Airbus UK – who are 16 points behind with six games to play – fail to defeat Prestatyn the night before.

Barring any dramatic turnabout, the Saints should wrap up title with plenty of time to spare, but will be keen to do it in style on home surrounds.

"We need two points from our last five games and, regardless of whether Airbus win or lose on Friday night, we want to win the league on our own merit,"

by John Bridgwater

said Darlington. "It is fitting that we are playing Carmarthen, who have been our bogey team this season. We drew 0-0 on their ground, and then lost 3-0 at home last November. We also lost to them on penalties in the league cup, which hurt us as we felt we had a perfectly good goal disallowed."

"We've now got an opportunity to beat them to win the league, and everyone is feeling confident and determined to seize the chance."

"To be 16 points clear at this stage, and the chance of winning the league with four or five games to spare, shows the progression that the team has made this season. I think it's a long time since a team has won the

league by so many points. "But the title is not done and dusted yet, we still have work to do to win the league and qualify for this year's Champions League."

Midfielder Sam Finley returns to duty after his three match ban, while top scorer Wilde should be fit despite taking a knock to his knee in the 3-0 win against Port Talbot.

Aeron Edwards, who went off at half time as a precaution following his hamstring problems, should also take his place in the line-up, but Chris Seargeant is still doubtful with a groin injury.

After this weekend, the Saints turn their focus on achieving the double when they take on Bangor City in the Welsh Cup semi-final at Rhyl the following Saturday, the winners to meet either Barry Town or Prestatyn in the final.

The club are providing a free bus to the game, leaving the Venue at 12.30pm. Anyone interested in travelling should contact Gilbert Woolley on 01691-684840.

Tickets prices for the semi final are £7 for adults and £3 for concessions.

International calls for lacrosse pair



TWO Moreton Hall schoolgirls received international recognition when playing for Wales in the under-19 lacrosse junior home internationals against England and Scotland in Guildford. Eleanor Jones (right) appeared for the Welsh A Team, which performed exceptionally, winning and losing one game. Sarah-Grace Spencer, another keen lacrosse player who also plays for the school team, made her bow for the Welsh B Team.

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